June 1/2, 2024 "God is Limitless" Pastor Aaron Buer



SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.

2024 Challenge: Finding Jesus in the Old Testament

June: Read Psalms to see how situations and events point to Jesus

Day 1 Psalm 22 | Jesus in Psalms

Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord. They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: He has done it! Psalm 22:30-31

This year, we look for Jesus in the Old Testament to see how God's plan always included Jesus saving us from our sins. This month, we look at various Psalms to see how they point to Jesus as the Messiah who will suffer to save his people and ultimately reign victorious over all nations.

King David wrote many psalms that point to Jesus, his descendant whom God promised would rule forever one day. During his crucifixion, Jesus quotes one of David's psalms as he cries, "My God, my God why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46; Psalm 22:1). Psalm 22 points to Jesus being mocked on the cross and people wondering why he cannot save himself when he saved others (Matthew 27:42). The psalm ends by describing families from all nations kneeling before him, serving him and declaring to future generations what he has done.

<u>Psalm 69</u> portrays the Messiah's trials and suffering. Jesus is the righteous one who endures scorn, disgrace and shame on the cross while enemies surround him (<u>Psalm 69:19</u>). Verse 21 is fulfilled when Jesus is offered a drink mixed with gall while he hangs on the cross. By suffering, the Messiah will save his people, rebuild their cities and provide a dwelling place for his people (<u>Psalm 69:35-36</u>).

<u>Psalm 110</u> points to Jesus's victory in battle. He will rule with a mighty scepter, and his troops will be willing to fight for him. His enemies will become his footstool. This psalm also points to Jesus as a ruling king and a priest forever, referring back to Melchizedek, who met with Abram (<u>Genesis 14:17-19</u>). Psalm 110 also indicates the Messiah as one who will one day judge all nations.

TODAY: The Psalms offer rich language and poetry about Jesus as the Messiah. Commit to reading this month's passages prayerfully. Ask God to open your eyes to all the ways the Psalms point to Jesus.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read <u>Psalm 22</u>. Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Note any cross references in your Bible and how Jesus quotes this Psalm while hanging on the cross.

Day 2 Exodus 3:1-15 | God is Limitless

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" Exodus 3:14

God's people have been enslaved in Egypt for hundreds of years. Yet, God has not forgotten the suffering and plight of his people. He is raising up a leader, Moses, to lead his people out of the land of bondage and into the land of promise. Before commissioning Moses for this task, though, God teaches Moses something profound.

God revealed to Moses that he is the "I AM." This means God is the self-existent one who has always been and will always be. Moses could engage in his mission with confidence, knowing that the great I AM would go before him.

The name of God (I AM) reveals his character and nature. God is limitless. He has no beginning and no end. Take a moment and ponder this great truth. God has always existed. There has never been a moment in which God has not been. Such truth is too much for our finite brains to fully comprehend. How can this even be? How can a being be so grand and so marvelous? Yet such is God, the one deserving of all of our worship.

TODAY: Throughout this sermon series, you should reach a point where truths about God exceed what your finite mind can fully comprehend. That is a good thing. Our infinite God is greater than our finite minds. Allow this mystery and tension to lead you to worship our great God. Join the Ada Bible worship team as they sing "So <u>Will I</u>" to praise God for his limitless

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read <u>Psalm 18</u>. Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Consider how God's deliverance of David from his enemies points to Jesus.

Day 3 Proverbs 3:5-6 | Submit and Trust

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

God is limitless. He is the great I AM, who is greater than our minds can comprehend fully. Because of this reality, we should be a people of faith—people who submit to God and trust him as the infinite and wise ruler over all things. Consequently, the Bible calls us to be people who trust in the Lord with all of our hearts and lean not on our own understanding (Proverbs 3:5-6). Such a command is rooted in the very character and nature of God. We are commanded to trust God with our whole hearts because he is the only one worthy of such devotion.

To fail to trust God is to rival God. It is to trust oneself or other created things instead of the Creator. Though this seems foolish, this is exactly what we do when we sin or turn away from God and his ways. God desires, however, that we constantly grow in appreciation of his greatness and submit ourselves to him and his ways. We can trust God to lead us. He will make our paths straight. Will we trust him?

TODAY: Take some time today to consider where you might be attempting to rival God. Is there something that you have resisted surrendering to God fully? Maybe it involves your family, career, or finances. Confess anything God reveals to you and ask God for the grace to live a life of full surrender and trust.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: <u>Read Psalm 23</u>. Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Consider how Jesus called himself the Good Shepherd (John 10:11).

Day 4 Philippians 2:6-8 | Jesus

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. Philippians 2:6-7

If you want to know what God is like, then look to Jesus. Jesus reveals the heart and character of God. In Paul's letter to the Philippians, we read these shocking words about Jesus: "Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness" (Philippians 2:6-7). Note that it was because

Jesus is "in very nature God" that he did what he did. In other words, it is the very nature of God to serve and give of himself for the blessing and benefit of others.

God is limitless. But he limited himself in Jesus to seek and save the lost. The coming of Jesus, along with his sacrificial life and death, teaches us about the heart of God. In <u>Mark 10:45</u>, Jesus announced that he "did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Jesus gave his life to free us from sin and give us eternal life. He is a God of love. Do you know this God? Do you trust this God?

TODAY: Have you accepted Jesus's offer of redemption? The Bible promises us that all who call upon the name of the Lord by faith will be saved (<u>Rom. 10:13</u>). Today would be a great day to receive such a gift if you never have. If you have accepted this offer, take time to give God the praise and thanks that he rightfully deserves.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read <u>Psalm 24</u>. Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Consider how Jesus is the king of glory, come down to earth.

Day 5 Philippians 2:3-7 | Serve

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus. Philippians 2:3-5

Jesus comes as a selfless servant to give of himself for the salvation of others. His example informs how we live our lives and treat others. Paul instructs the church in Philippi to "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others" (Philippians 2:3-4). Paul also notes how such a way of life reflects "the same mindset as Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5).

The way of Jesus is to inform and transform our own way. The humble way of our Savior is to become our way. This implies that we are to prioritize others' well-being and leverage our lives for love and service. This might mean caring for elderly parents or family members. This might mean praying for an enemy or forgiving someone who has hurt you badly. Or it might also mean finding a way to more intentionally serve your church community.

TODAY: God has given each of us capacities and opportunities for service. How well are you leveraging such opportunities? Reflect upon the strategic opportunities for service in your life and commit to serving others over the coming days. If you are looking for opportunities to serve your church community, then go to <u>Adabible.org/serve</u>.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read <u>Psalm 26</u>. Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Consider how Jesus led a blameless life and never faltered.