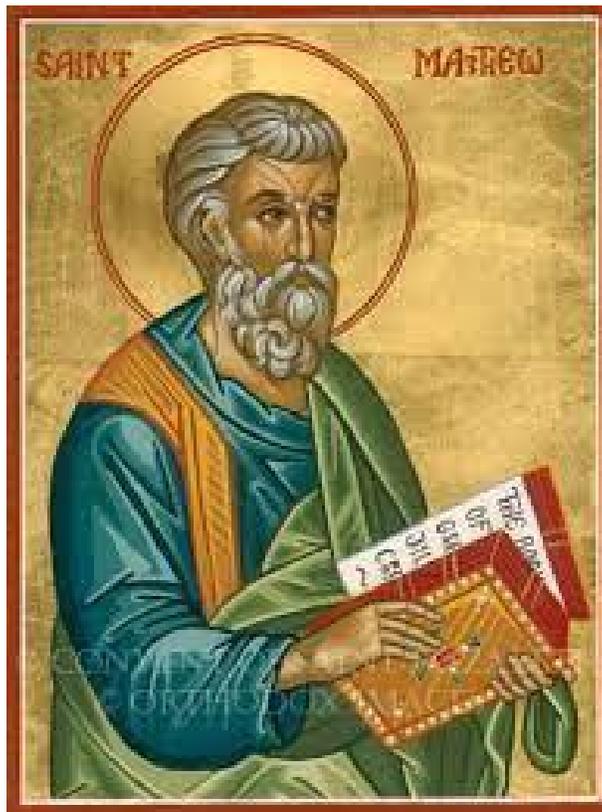


Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta

Winter Youth Rally 2022
Bible Bowl

Theme: The Gospel According to Saint Matthew &
Select Old Testament Prophetic Readings

Study Guide



This Study Guide is to help prepare for the Bible Bowl Contest, which will occur during the Atlanta Metropolis Winter Youth Rally on December 27-30.

In Addition to this Study Guide, the participants are to use only the Orthodox Study Bible (as this is the translation that is being used) and become familiar with the information provided in the footnotes or in the short theological commentaries, which are also found in the Orthodox Study Bible, in the pages in-between the New Testament Text and are related to the selected verses. This includes any feast day explanations that are found throughout the Gospel of Matthew. In simpler terms, read the introduction to the Gospel of Saint Matthew until the last page of this book; anything within these pages can be used to formulate competition questions. The same pertains to the Old Testament passages that are available in this study guide and in the Orthodox Study Bible.

Isaiah 7:14-25

14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and you shall call His name Immanuel.

15 Butter and honey He shall eat before He knows to prefer evil or choose the good.

16 For before the Child knows good or evil, He refuses the evil to choose the good; and the land you fear because of the presence of the two kings will be abandoned.

17 But God will bring the king of Assyria upon you, your people and your father's house – days that have not come, from the days that Ephraim took away from Judah the king of the Assyrians.”

18

And it shall come to pass in that day

The Lord will whistle for the fly

That *rules over* part of the river of Egypt,

And for the bee in the land of Assyria.

19

All of them will come and rest

In the ravines of the country, in the clefts of the rocks,

In the caves and every crevice and tree.

20

In that day, the Lord will shave – with a large and blood-drenched razor

Belonging to the king of Assyria beyond the river –

The head and the hair of the legs,

And will also remove the beard.

21

It shall be in that day

A man will rear a heifer and two sheep;

22

So it shall be, from the abundance of milk they give,

Everyone left in the land will eat butter and honey.

23

It shall happen in that day,

Wherever there could be a thousand vines

Worth a thousand *shekels* of silver,

It will be a barren land with thorn-plants.

24

Men will enter there with bows and arrows,

For all the land will be barren and with thorn-plants.

25

Every mountain shall certainly be plowed,

And there shall be no fear there from barren land and thorn-plants;

For it will be a pasture for sheep and a place for oxen to roam.

Isaiah 40:1-12

“Comfort, yes, comfort My people!”

Says God.

2

“O priests, speak to the heart of Jerusalem, comfort her,

For her humiliation is ended,

Her sin is pardoned;

For she has received from the Lord’s hand

Double for her sins.”

3

The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord;

Make straight the paths for our God.

4

Every valley shall be filled,

And every mountain and hill humbled;

The crooked places shall be made straight

And the rough places into plains;

5

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed,

And all flesh shall see the salvation of God;

For the Lord has spoken.”

6

The voice said, "Cry out!"

So I said, "What shall I cry?"

"All flesh *is* grass,

And all man's glory *is* like the flower of the field.

7

The grass withers, the flower fades,

8

But the word of our God stands forever."

9

O you who brings good tidings to Zion,

Go into the high mountain;

O You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem,

Lift up your voice with strength,

Lift *it* up, be not afraid;

Say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"

10

Behold, the Lord is coming [e]with strength,

And His arm is with authority.

Behold, His reward *is* with Him,

And His work before Him.

11

He will feed His flock like a shepherd;

And gather the lambs with His arm;
And He will comfort those with young.

12

Who measured the water in His hand,
And heaven with a span
And all the earth with a handful?
Who weighed the mountains in scales
And the vales in a balance?

Jeremiah 45:15-27

15 Jeremiah replied to the king, "If I tell you, will you not surely put me to death? But if I advise you, you will not heed me."

16 So the king swore to him, saying, "As the Lord lives, who made this soul in us, surely I will not put you to death, nor will I give you into the hand of these men."

17 Jeremiah then said to him, "Thus says the Lord: 'If you surely will indeed go out to the leaders of the king of Babylon, your soul shall live, and this city shall not be burned with fire; and you and your house will live.

18 But if you do not go out, this city shall be delivered into the hands of the Chaldeans. They shall burn it with fire, and you will not escape.' "

19 The king said to Jeremiah, "I am afraid of the Judeans who fled to the Chaldeans, lest they deliver me into their hands, and they mock me."

20 But Jeremiah said, "They will not deliver *you*. Hear the word of the Lord I speak to you, and it will be good for you; and your soul will live.

21 But if you refuse to go out, this *is* the word that the Lord showed me:

22 'Behold, all the women who are left behind in the house of the king of Judah and were led out to the rulers of the king of Babylon said:

"Your peace-loving men deceived you

And will prevail against you;

They will cause your feet to slide and fail,

And will turn away from you."

23 They will also lead out your wives and children to the Chaldeans, and you shall not escape; for you will be taken by the hand of the king of Babylon, and the city shall be burned.' "

24 Then the king said to him, "Let no man know of these words, and you shall not die.

25 But if the rulers hear that I talked with you, and they come to you and say, 'Tell us, what did the king say to you? Do not hide it from us, and we will not put you to death. So what did the king say to you?'

26 Then you shall say to them, 'I brought my supplications before the presence of a king, that he would not send me back to the house of Jonathan to die there.' "

27 Then all the rulers came to Jeremiah and asked him, and he told them all these words the king commanded him. So they were silent, for the word of the Lord was not to be heard.

Psalm 117(118):16-29 (Correct)

16

The right hand of the Lord exalted me;
The right hand of the Lord worked its power.

17

I shall not die, but live,
And tell of the Lord's works.

18

The Lord chastened and corrected me,
But He did not give me up to death.

19

Open to me the gates of righteousness to me;
I will enter therein,
And give thanks to the Lord.

20

This is the gate of the Lord;
The righteous shall go in through it.

21

I will give thanks to You,
For You heard me,
And you became my salvation.

22

The stone the builders rejected
The same became the head of the corner;

23

And this came about from the Lord,

And it is wonderful in our eyes.

24

This is the day the Lord has made;

Let us greatly rejoice, and be glad therein.

25

O Lord, save us now;

O Lord, prosper us now.

26

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord;

We blessed you from the house of the Lord.

27

God is the Lord,

And He has revealed Himself to us;

Appoint a feast for yourselves, decked with branches.

28

You are my God, and I will give thanks to You;

You are my God, I shall exalt You;

I will give thanks to You, for You heard me;

And you became my salvation.

29

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!

For His mercy endures forever.

Zechariah 9:9-17

9

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

Proclaim it aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

Behold, your King comes to you;

He is righteous and saving;

He is gentle and mounted upon a donkey,

Even a young foal.

10

He will utterly destroy the chariots out of Ephraim

And the horse out of Jerusalem.

And there shall be an abundance

And peace among the nations;

He shall rule over the waters as far as the sea,

And the rivers to the ends of the earth.’

11

And by the blood of your covenant,

You freed your prisoners from the pit having no water.

12

You prisoners from the congregation,

You shall live in the fortress,

And for one day of your exile,

I will repay you double.

13

For I have bent you, O Judah,
For Myself as a bow; I have filled Ephraim,
And will arouse your sons, O Zion,
Against the sons of the Greeks,
And will handle you as the sword of a warrior.”

14

And the Lord will be over them,
And He shall go forth like a lightning bolt.
The Lord Almighty shall sound with the trumpet,
And shall go forth with the tumult of His threat.

15

The Lord Almighty will shield them,
And they shall devour their enemy
And overwhelm them with sling-stones.
They will drink them down as wine,
And they shall fill the bowls as the altar.

16

And on that day,
The Lord their God will deliver them,
His people, as a flock,
For sacred stones will roll across His land.

17

For if anything of His be good,

And anything of His be fair,

There shall be grain for the young men

And the fragrant wine for the virgins.

Exodus 3

1 Now Moses was tending the sheep of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led them flock to the back of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

2 Then the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he saw the bush burning with fire, but the bush *was* not consumed.

3 Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush is not consumed."

4 When therefore the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!"

Then he said, "Here I am."

5 So He said, "Do not come any closer. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand *is* holy ground."

6 Moreover He said, "I *am* the God of your father – the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

7 And the Lord said: "Indeed, I have seen the affliction of My people in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrow.

8 So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Gergesites, the Hivites and the Jebusites.

9 Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the affliction with which the Egyptians oppress them.

10 Come now, I will send you to Pharaoh, to bring My people, the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt."

11 But Moses said to God, "Who *am* I to go to Pharaoh, king of Egypt, to bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"

12 Then God said to Moses, "I will be with you, and this *shall be* a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

13 So Moses said to God, "Indeed, *when* I go to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What *is* His name?' what shall I tell them?"

14 Then God said to Moses, "I AM the Existing One." He also said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'The Existing One sent me to you.' "

15 Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The Lord God of your fathers – the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob – sent me to you.' This *is* My name forever, and My memorial to all generations.

16 Go then, and gather the elders of the children of Israel together, and say to them, 'The Lord God of your fathers – the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob – appeared to me, saying, "I have surely looked upon you and all the things that happened to you in Egypt;

17 and I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Gergesites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, to a land flowing with milk and honey.' "

18 Then they will heed your voice; and you shall go, you and the elders of Israel, to the king of Egypt; and you shall say to him, 'The God of the Hebrews met with us; and now, let us go three days' journey into the desert to sacrifice to our God.'

19 But I know Pharaoh the king of Egypt will not let you go, not even by a mighty hand.

20 Thus I will stretch out My hand and strike the Egyptians with all My wonders which I will work among them; and after that he will let you go.

21 And I will give this people grace in the sight of the Egyptians; and when you go, you shall not go empty-handed.

22 But every woman shall ask of her neighbor, namely, of her who dwells near her house, articles of silver, gold, and clothing; and you shall put *them* on your sons and on daughters. Thus you shall plunder the Egyptians."

Psalm 21 (22): 1-22

1

O God, My God, hear me; why have You forsaken Me?

2

The words of my transgressions are far from my salvation.

3

O My God, I will cry out by day, but You will not hear me;
And by night, but not for a lack of understanding in me.

4

But You *dwell among the saints,*
O praise of Israel.

5

Our fathers hoped in You;
And You delivered them.

6

They cried out to You, and were saved;
They hoped in You and were not ashamed.

7

But I *am* a worm, and not a man;
A reproach of man, and despised by the people.

8

All who see me mock me;
They speak with their lips and shake their head,

9

Saying, "He hoped in the Lord, let Him rescue him;

Let Him save him, since He delights in him!"

10

For You *are* He who drew Me from the womb,

My hope from my mother's breasts;

11

I was cast upon You from the womb,

From My mother's womb

You are My God.

12

Be not stand off from Me,

For affliction *is* near;

There is no one to help.

13

Many young bulls surrounded Me;

Fat bulls encircled Me.

14

They opened their mouths against me

Like a raging and roaring lion.

15

I am poured out like water,

And all My bones are shattered;

My heart is like wax,

Melting into my stomach.

16

My strength is dried up like an earthen vessel;
My tongue cleaves to my throat;
And You led me into the dust of death.

17

For many dogs surrounded me;
An assembly of evildoers enclosed me.
They pierced my hands and my feet;

18

I numbered all My bones,
And they look *and* stare at me.

19

They divide my garments among themselves,
And for my clothing they cast lots.

20

But You, O Lord, do not remove Your help from me;
Attend to my aid.

21

Deliver my soul from the sword
And my only-begotten from the hand of the dog.

22

Save Me from the lion's mouth,
My humiliation from the horns of the unicorns

23

I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the church I will sing to You.