

The Kingdom's Fall

Hezekiah, one of Judah's best kings, led his people back to God for 29 years. The Bible says he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. Hezekiah trusted God, kept his commands, and followed Him. Because of this, God was with him. When Jerusalem was under threat of attack, God sent Isaiah to encourage him to continue to trust the Lord.

Upon his death, Manasseh, his son, reigned for 55 years. Unfortunately, he was not at all like his father. In fact, the Bible says he did evil in the eyes of the Lord. He led the people astray so that they actually did more evil than the nations that were in the land before God gave it to His people.

This yo-yo effect of following God and falling from God continued through another bad king, Amon, the son of Manasseh. Fortunately, his reign was only two years long. His son, Josiah followed him and he was a good king. With the help of some godly advisors, he helped restore God's place within the kingdom of Judah. Following Josiah, four more bad kings reigned over the final twenty years of Judah. To the very end, God sent His messengers, the prophets, to call His people to repent and turn to Him. But when all was said and done, God's people refused to listen.

So God let God's people deal with the consequences of their actions. Babylon's King Nebuchadnezzar laid three sieges against Judah and Jerusalem. The first came against King Jehoiakim and the second against King Jehoiachin. Nearly 10,000 Judeans were captured and taken away to Babylon. The king and the prophet Ezekiel were among their prisoners.

Finally, in 586 after an 18-month blockade, the Babylonian army broke through the walls of Jerusalem. They demolished the city, looted the temple, and led most of the remaining people away to Babylon. The prophet Jeremiah was among the few who were left behind. He grieved the loss of his beloved city and mourned the sin of God's people. But even then, he trusted that God would have compassion on the remnant who remained in Jerusalem.

It had been eight centuries since God delivered His people from slavery in Egypt. Now they were exiles in Babylon. Hope vanished. But God told Ezekiel that all was not lost. He reminded His people that God would one day restore them. He assured their return to the homeland. And He promised that He would be their God.

To illustrate His point, God showed Ezekiel a valley of dry bones and asked, "Can these bones live?" When Ezekiel spoke God's message to the bones, they came to life and stood like a vast army. This astonishing demonstration confirmed that even exile in Babylon would not hinder God's redemptive plan. Life would return to Israel's dried up bones. God would make them a nation again. He would bring them back to their land. Only God could.

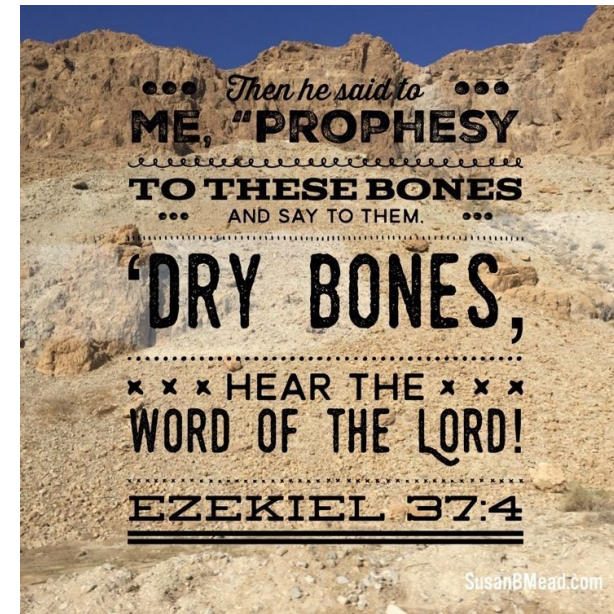
<https://crossofglory.com/the-story-chapter-17/>

Announcements

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: COMMUNION PREP
Volunteers are needed to prepare communion in the coming months. Please sign up in the foyer.

VALENTINE'S DINNER
The youth will serve Valentine's Dinner on **Wednesday, Feb. 12, at 5:15 p.m.** in the annex.

NO 2ND FRIDAY GAME NIGHT
Second Friday Game and Movie Night is cancelled until further notice.



Weekly Events

SUNDAY EVENING
There is a small group that meets each Sunday evening from **5-6 p.m.** The Lord's Supper is available.

TUESDAY MORNING
All men are invited to the annex each Tuesday morning at **6:20 a.m.** for a time of breakfast, prayer and fellowship.

Ladies Class meets **Tuesday at noon** in the annex.

Youth Sports & Activities



MONDAY, FEB. 3
JUNIOR HIGH GIRLS BASKETBALL
SHINER @ FLATONIA, 5:30 P.M.

FRIDAY, FEB. 7
HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL
GONZALES V. SCHULENBURG/VICTORIA WEST,
4 P.M. (SCRIMMAGE)

SATURDAY, FEB. 8
HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL
GONZALES @ LLANO, 10:10 A.M.
(SCRIMMAGE, VARSITY ONLY)



Prayers

- **Diane Acock**—health
Lauren Babb's step-mother
- **Pauline Alvarez**—health
- **Norma Anderson**—health
Cheryl Pitts' friend
- **Jennie Chrismon**—health
- **Dawn Clarke**
- **Paul Faires**—health
Joyce's son
- **Steven Faires**
- **Justin Gammons**
- **Nelle Hahn**—health
- **Russ Hahn**—health
- **Brandon Jiron**—health
Paige Mills' cousin
- **Kerri Johnson**
Paige Mills' mother
- **Curtis Jones, Sr.**—Alzheimer's
- **Curtis Jones, III**—Army
- **Mandy Kasper**—health
Winegearts' daughter
- **Jeanette Laging**—health
- **The Latham family**
- **Sharron Mason**—health
- **Martha McCarter**—health
Lauren Babb's grandmother
- **Ted & Christalina Muniz**—
marriage
- **Kevin Noack**
- **Oretha Pennock**—health
Debbie Fougerat's mother
- **Freeman Pickett**—health
- **Don Pitts**—health
- **Sharon Saint**—health
Zach Babb's mother
- **Calvin Salois**—health
Winegearts' son-in-law
- **Dana Spradlin**—health
- **Casey, Barbie & Elianna Timms**—
Elianna's health
- **Nancy Tuttle**—health
Peggy Walls' sister
- **Lorin Watson**—health
Victoria Johnson's father
- **Susan Williamson**—health
Lauren Babb's mother

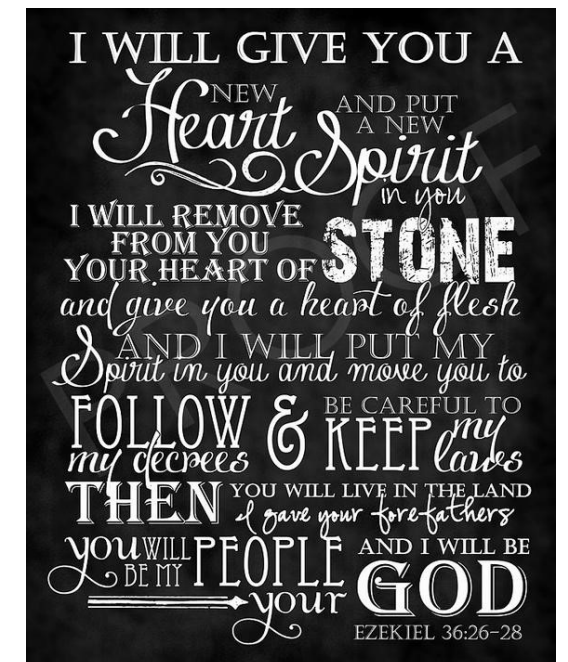
By the Numbers

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

Bible Study—63
Sunday Morning—77
Wednesday—26

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTION

	LAST WEEK	YTD
Offering	\$2,958	\$7,505
Budget	\$2,142	\$8,568
Difference	\$816	(-\$1,063)



Lorin Watson, Victoria Johnson's father, had successful back surgery in Abilene on Thursday. He was released to home on Friday and already feels he is experiencing relief from chronic pain.

IF YOU HAVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS OR PRAYER REQUESTS YOU WISH TO HAVE INCLUDED IN THE BULLETIN, PLEASE CONTACT: VICTORIA JOHNSON AT 325-518-9205 OR VICTORIA@GONZALESCHURCHOFCHRIST.ORG