



## Readings for Lent//2016

Lent (an old English word for Spring) is the season each year in which we approach the crucifixion (Good Friday) and the resurrection (Easter Sunday) of Jesus Christ. It begins with Ash Wednesday and lasts forty days, not counting Sundays, because Sundays already commemorate Jesus' resurrection. Historically, as the Lenten season developed, 40 days was settled upon because of Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness of fasting, prayer and solitude with His Father in preparation for His ministry on earth.

Lent is a time for sacrifice and self-examination, for increased self-awareness and God-awareness, for spiritual refocus and renewing of our conversion, for seeing our own need for Grace, and for opening our hearts to be more captured by Jesus' love.

Some people adopt the discipline of "giving up" or "taking on" during the observation of Lent, which serves as a daily reminder of Christ's love and sacrifice. Basically the discipline is intended to turn our thoughts to Him. This is a personal decision between you and God. If it becomes too burdensome, please stop without guilt! Lent is meant to be enlivening and deepening, not another legalistic rule of proving to God your worth or affection for Him.

According to the Covenant Book of Worship, it is "During this season the church proclaims, remembers, and responds in gratitude and faith to Christ's atoning death." Hopefully this booklet of selected readings will aid you in this endeavor. Let us join the millions of believers from ages past and throughout the world in this time of reflection and rejoicing.

*Adapted in part from 40 Days of Lent by Ty Saltzgeber*

**a.m. is intended to be read in the morning and p.m. in the evening**

"The miracle of the gospel is Christ, risen and glorified, who this very moment tracks us, pursues us, abides in us, and offers himself to us as companion for the journey!"

***Brennan Manning***  
*From Abba's Child*

week one **1** //feb. 10 - feb. 13

“Confess your sins often to God and don’t think of them as scattered offenses in the course of a long life; a burst of anger here, an act of impatience there. Instead, unite them into one continuous representation of your life. Remember that a person may seem rather good if his faults are scattered over large distances throughout his lifetime; but if his errors and follies are placed next to one another, he will appear to be a vicious and miserable person. Hopefully this exercise, when really applied to your soul, will be useful to you for increasing the grace of humility.”

**Jeremy Taylor**

*Born and educated in Cambridge, England, ordained in  
1633, chaplain to Charles I  
From Devotional Classics, edited by  
Richard J. Foster and James Bryan Smith*

**ASH WEDNESDAY//02.10.16**

**a.m.** Isaiah 40:1-14 **p.m.** Psalm 51  
...against you, you only, have I sinned.

**thursday//02.11.16**

**a.m.** Isaiah 40:15-31 **p.m.** Joel 2:1-2, 12-17  
...return to God with weeping.

**friday//02.12.16**

**a.m.** Isaiah 41:1-20 **p.m.** Daniel 9:4-19  
...we have sinned and done wrong.

**saturday//02.13.16**

**a.m.** Isaiah 41:21-29 **p.m.** Romans 3:9-20  
...there is no one righteous, not one.

**sunday//**

Romans 4:1-15 // Live by Faith