

FFC Reading Plan
THE JUSTICE OF GOD

MAKING A PLAN

The Catholic Church has an excellent plan for reading and studying the bible, called the Lectionary. Studying the Sunday Lectionary readings can make a big difference in your appreciation of the Eucharist. Here are 8 reading plans to help you further appreciate our Catholic Faith.

Reading Plan 1
READING THE BIBLE WITH THE CHURCH

Reading Plan 2
A WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE

Reading Plan 3
IMAGES OF GOD

Reading Plan 4
CALLED BY GOD

Reading Plan 5
THE JUSTICE OF GOD

Reading Plan 6
SIN AND SALVATION

Reading Plan 7
WHY DO WE SUFFER?

Reading Plan 8
WOMEN IN THE BIBLE



A Faith Formation for Children Publication

FFC Reading Plan
THE JUSTICE OF GOD



READING PLAN 5
THE JUSTICE OF GOD

FFC 2007

FFC Reading Plan
THE JUSTICE OF GOD

THE JUSTICE OF GOD

God, it seems, has a preference for the poor. Spend a week reading about God's justice in the Old Testament, and a week in the New Testament.

Day	Bible Reading	Theme
1	Genesis 1.1-2.3	God's Creation is good
2	Genesis chapter 45	God sides with the youngest
3	Exodus 3.7-10	God sides with the oppressed
4	Leviticus chapter 25	The Jubilee year
5	Deuteronomy 24.10-21	God is with the least
6	Psalms 82	Justice to the needy
7	Amos 5.21-24; 8.4-8	Let justice roll down
8	Matthew 5.43-48	Love your enemies
9	Matthew 19.13-15	Jesus welcomes little children
10	Matthew 25.31-46	Jesus identifies with the least
11	Luke 1.46-56; 6.20-26	God reverses the world's order
12	Luke 16.19-31	A rich man and poor Lazarus
13	Luke 22.24-27	Who is the greatest?
14	James 2.1-13	Showing favorites?

Based on
THE CATHOLIC YOUTH BIBLE
 Pray It, Study It, Live It
 SAINT MARY'S PRESS
 Bible Passages taken from Jerusalem Bible

FFC Reading Plan
THE JUSTICE OF GOD

2:5 Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

2:6 In spite of this, you have no respect for anybody who is poor. Isn't it always the rich who are against you? Isn't it always their doing when you are dragged before the court?

2:7 Aren't they the ones who insult the honourable name to which you have been dedicated?

2:8 Well, the right thing to do is to keep the supreme law of scripture: you must love your neighbour as yourself;

2:9 but as soon as you make distinctions between classes of people, you are committing sin, and under condemnation for breaking the Law.

2:10 You see, if a man keeps the whole of the Law, except for one small point at which he fails, he is still guilty of breaking it all.

2:11 It was the same person who said, 'You must not commit adultery' and 'You must not kill'. Now if you commit murder, you do not have to commit adultery as well to become a breaker of the Law.

2:12 Talk and behave like people who are going to be judged by the law of freedom,

2:13 because there will be judgement without mercy for those who have not been merciful themselves; but the merciful need have no fear of judgement.

[Reflections:](#)

FFC Reading Plan
THE JUSTICE OF GOD



SHOWING FAVORITES?

Day 14 Day 14 Day 14 Day 14 Day 14 Day 14 Day 14 Day 14
James 2.1-13

Respect for the poor

2:1 My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people.

2:2 Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes,

2:3 and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest'.

2:4 Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

FFC Reading Plan
THE JUSTICE OF GOD

GOD'S CREATION IS GOOD

Day 1 Day 1 Day 1 Day 1 Day 1 Day 1 Day 1 Day 1 Day 1



THE ORIGIN OF THE WORLD AND OF MANKIND
Genesis 1.1-2.3 (JB)

The first account of the creation

1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

1:2 Now the earth was a formless void, there was darkness over the deep, and God's spirit hovered over the water.

1:3 God said, 'Let there be light', and there was light.

1:4 God saw that light was good, and God divided light from darkness.

1:5 God called light 'day', and darkness he called 'night'. Evening came and morning came: the first day.

1:6 God said, 'Let there be a vault in the waters to divide the waters in two'. And so it was.

FFC Reading Plan
THE JUSTICE OF GOD

1:7 God made the vault, and it divided the waters above the vault from the waters under the vault.
1:8 God called the vault 'heaven'. Evening came and morning came: the second day.
1:9 God said, 'Let the waters under heaven come together into a single mass, and let dry land appear'. And so it was.
1:10 God called the dry land 'earth' and the mass of waters 'seas', and God saw that it was good.
1:11 God said, 'Let the earth produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants, and fruit trees bearing fruit with their seed inside, on the earth'. And so it was.
1:12 The earth produced vegetation: plants bearing seed in their several kinds, and trees bearing fruit with their seed inside in their several kinds. God saw that it was good.
1:13 Evening came and morning came: the third day.
1:14 God said, 'Let there be lights in the vault of heaven to divide day from night, and let them indicate festivals, days and years.
1:15 Let them be lights in the vault of heaven to shine on the earth.' And so it was.
1:16 God made the two great lights: the greater light to govern the day, the smaller light to govern the night, and the
1:17 God set them in the vault of heaven to shine on the earth,
1:18 to govern the day and the night and to divide light from darkness. God saw that it was good.
1:19 Evening came and morning came: the fourth day.
1:20 God said, 'Let the waters teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth within the vault of heaven'. And so it was.

FFC Reading Plan
THE JUSTICE OF GOD



WHO IS THE GREATEST?

Day 13 Day 13 Day 13 Day 13 Day 13 Day 13 Day 13
Luke 22.24-27

Who is the greatest?

22:24 A dispute arose also between them about which should be reckoned the greatest,
22:25 but he said to them, 'Among pagans it is the kings who lord it over them, and those who have authority over them are given the title Benefactor.
22:26 This must not happen with you. No; the greatest among you must behave as if he were the youngest, the leader as if he were the one who serves.
22:27 For who is the greater: the one at table or the one who serves? The one at table, surely? Yet here am I among you as one who serves!

Reflections:

FFC Reading Plan
THE JUSTICE OF GOD

16:23 'In his torment in Hades he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off with Lazarus in his bosom.
16:24 So he cried out, "Father Abraham, pity me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames".
16:25 "My son," Abraham replied "remember that during your life good things came your way, just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony.
16:26 But that is not all: between us and you a great gulf has been fixed, to stop anyone, if he wanted to, crossing from our side to yours, and to stop any crossing from your side to ours."
16:27 "The rich man replied, "Father, I beg you then to send Lazarus to my father's house,
16:28 since I have five brothers, to give them warning so that they do not come to this place of torment too".
16:29 "They have Moses and the prophets," said Abraham "let them listen to them."
16:30 "Ah no, father Abraham," said the rich man "but if someone comes to them from the dead, they will repent."
16:31 Then Abraham said to him, "If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead".'

[Reflections:](#)

FFC Reading Plan
THE JUSTICE OF GOD

1:21 God created great sea-serpents and every kind of living creature with which the waters teem, and every kind of winged creature. God saw that it was good.
1:22 God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the waters of the seas; and let the birds multiply upon the earth'.
1:23 Evening came and morning came: the fifth day.
1:24 God said, 'Let the earth produce every kind of living creature: cattle, reptiles, and every kind of wild beast'. And so it was.
1:25 God made every kind of wild beast, every kind of cattle, and every kind of land reptile. God saw that it was good.
1:26 God said, 'Let us make man in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves, and let them be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven, the cattle, all the wild beasts and all the reptiles that crawl upon the earth'.
1:27 God created man in the image of himself, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them.
1:28 God blessed them, saying to them, 'Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and conquer it. Be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven and all living animals on the earth.'
1:29 God said, 'See, I give you all the seed-bearing plants that are upon the whole earth, and all the trees with seed-bearing fruit; this shall be your food.
1:30 To all wild beasts, all birds of heaven and all living reptiles on the earth I give all the foliage of plants for food.' And so it was.
1:31 God saw all he had made, and indeed it was very good. Evening came and morning came: the sixth day.

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THE JUSTICE OF GOD

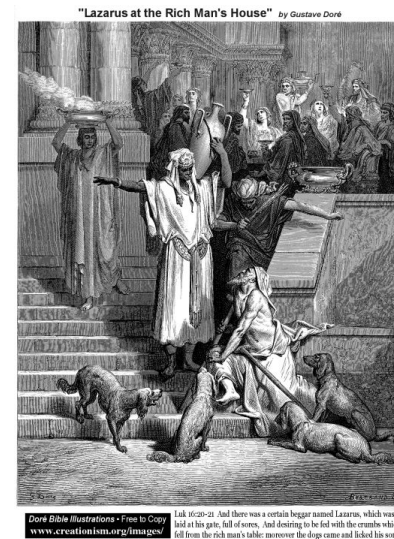
2:1 Thus heaven and earth were completed with all their array.

2:2 On the seventh day God completed the work he had been doing. He rested on the seventh day after all the work he had been doing.

2:3 God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on that day he had rested after all his work of creating.

[Reflections:](#)

FFC Reading Plan
THE JUSTICE OF GOD



A RICH MAN AND POOR LAZARUS

Day 12 Day 12 Day 12 Day 12 Day 12 Day 12 Day 12 Day 12 Day 12 Day 12
Luke 16.19-31

The rich man and Lazarus

16:19 There was a rich man who used to dress in purple and fine linen and feast magnificently every day.

16:20 And at his gate there lay a poor man called Lazarus, covered with sores,

16:21 who longed to fill himself with the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even came and licked his sores.

16:22 Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried.

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THE JUSTICE OF GOD

6:26 Alas for you when the world speaks well of you!
This was the way their ancestors treated the false
prophets.'

Reflections:

FFC Reading Plan
THE JUSTICE OF GOD



GOD SIDES WITH THE YOUNGEST
Day 2 Day 2 Day 2 Day 2 Day 2 Day 2 Day 2 Day 2 Day 2
Genesis chapter 45

Joseph makes himself known

45:1 Then Joseph could not control his feelings in front of all his retainers, and he exclaimed, 'Let everyone leave me'. No one therefore was present with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers,

45:2 but he wept so loudly that all the Egyptians heard, and the news reached Pharaoh's palace.

45:3 Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph. Is my father really still alive?' His brothers could not answer him, they were so dismayed at the sight of him.

45:4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come closer to me'. When they had come closer to him he said, 'I am your brother Joseph whom you sold into Egypt.'

FFC Reading Plan
THE JUSTICE OF GOD

45:5 But now, do not grieve, do not reproach yourselves for having sold me here, since God sent me before you to preserve your lives.

45:6 For this is the second year there has been famine in the country, and there are still five years to come of no ploughing or reaping.

45:7 God sent me before you to make sure that your race would have survivors in the land and to save your lives, many lives at that.

45:8 So it was not you who sent me here but God, and he has made me father to Pharaoh, lord of all his household and administrator of the whole land of Egypt.

45:9 Return quickly to your father and tell him, "Your son Joseph says this: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me at once.

45:10 You shall live in the country of Goshen where you will be near me, you, your children and your grandchildren, your flocks, your cattle and all your possessions.

45:11 I will provide for you there, for there are still five years of famine, and I do not want you to be in need, you and your household and all you have."

45:12 You can see with your own eyes, and my brother Benjamin can see too that it is my own mouth speaking to you.

45:13 Give my father a full report of all the honour I enjoy in Egypt, and of all you have seen. Then hurry and bring my father down here.'

45:14 Then throwing his arms round the neck of his brother Benjamin he wept; and Benjamin wept on his shoulder.

FFC Reading Plan
THE JUSTICE OF GOD

1:52 He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly.

1:53 The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away.

1:54 He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of his mercy

1:55 -according to the promise he made to our ancestors- of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

1:56 Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home.

The inaugural discourse. The Beatitudes

6:20 Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said: 'How happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of God.

6:21 Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied. Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh.

6:22 Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man.

6:23 Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets.

The curses

6:24 'But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now.

6:25 Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry. Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep.

FFC Reading Plan
THE JUSTICE OF GOD



GOD REVERSES THE WORLD'S ORDER
Day 11 Day 11 Day 11 Day 11 Day 11 Day 11 Day 11 Day 11 Day 11
Luke 1.46-56; 6.20-26

The Magnificat

1:46 And Mary said: 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
1:47 and my spirit exults in God my saviour;
1:48 because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid.
Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed,
1:49 for the Almighty has done great things for me. Holy is his name,
1:50 and his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him.
1:51 He has shown the power of his arm, he has routed the proud of heart.

FFC Reading Plan
THE JUSTICE OF GOD

45:15 He kissed all his brothers, weeping over them. After which his brothers talked with him.

Pharaoh's invitation

45:16 News reached Pharaoh's palace that Joseph's brothers had come, and Pharaoh was pleased to hear it, as were his servants.
45:17 Pharaoh told Joseph, 'Say to your brothers, "Do this: load your beasts and go off to the land of Canaan.
45:18 Fetch your father and families, and come back to me. I will give you the best the land of Egypt offers, and you shall feed on the fat of the land."
45:19 And you, for your part, give them this command: "Do this: take waggons from the land of Egypt, for your little ones and your wives. Get your father and come.
45:20 Never mind about your property, for the best that the land of Egypt offers is yours.'"

The return to Canaan

45:21 Israel's sons did as they were told. Joseph gave them waggons as Pharaoh had ordered, and he gave them provisions for the journey.
45:22 To each and every one he gave a festal garment, and to Benjamin three hundred shekels of silver and five festal garments.
45:23 And he sent his father ten donkeys laden with the best that Egypt offered, and ten she-donkeys laden with grain, bread and food for his father's journey.
45:24 Then he sent his brothers on their way. His final words to them were, 'Do not be upset on the journey'.
45:25 And so they left Egypt. When they reached the land of Canaan and their father Jacob,

FFC Reading Plan
THE JUSTICE OF GOD

45:26 they gave him this report, 'Joseph is still alive. Indeed it is he who is administrator of the whole land of Egypt.' But he was as one stunned, for he did not believe them.

45:27 However, when they told him all Joseph had said to them, and when he saw the waggons that Joseph had sent to fetch him, the spirit of their father Jacob revived,
45:28 and Israel said, 'That is enough! My son Joseph is still alive. I must go and see him before I die.'

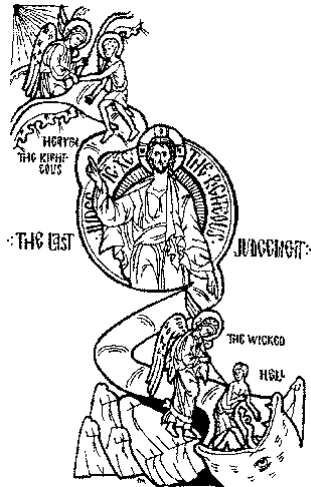
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FFC Reading Plan
THE JUSTICE OF GOD

25:35 For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome;
25:36 naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me."
25:37 Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink?
25:38 When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you;
25:39 sick or in prison and go to see you?"
25:40 And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me".
25:41 Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.
25:42 For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink;
25:43 I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me."
25:44 Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?"
25:45 Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me".
25:46 And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

[Reflections:](#)

FFC Reading Plan
THE JUSTICE OF GOD



JESUS IDENTIFIES WITH THE LEAST

Day 10 Day 10 Day 10 Day 10 Day 10 Day 10 Day 10 Day 10
Matthew 25.31-46

The Last Judgement

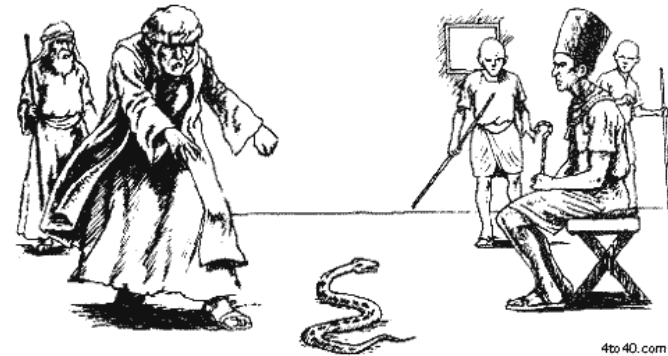
25:31 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory.

25:32 All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats.

25:33 He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left.

25:34 Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world.

FFC Reading Plan
THE JUSTICE OF GOD



GOD SIDES WITH THE OPPRESSED

Day 3 Day 3 Day 3 Day 3 Day 3 Day 3 Day 3 Day 3 Day 3 Day 3
Exodus 3.7-10

The mission of Moses

3:7 And Yahweh said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings.

3:8 I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow, the home of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites.

3:9 And now the cry of the sons of Israel has come to me, and I have witnessed the way in which the Egyptians oppress them,

3:10 so come, I send you to Pharaoh to bring the sons of Israel, my people, out of Egypt.'

[Reflections:](#)

FFC Reading Plan
THE JUSTICE OF GOD



THE JUBILEE YEAR

Day 4 Day 4 Day 4 Day 4 Day 4 Day 4 Day 4 Day 4 Day 4

Leviticus chapter 25

The Holy Years

a. The Sabbatical Year

25:1 Yahweh spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai; he said:
25:2 to the sons of Israel and say to them: "When you enter the land that I am giving you, the land is to keep a sabbath's rest for Yahweh.
25:3 For six years you shall sow your field, for six years you shall prune your vine and gather its produce.
25:4 But in the seventh year the land is to have its rest, a sabbath for Yahweh. You must not sow your field or prune your vine,

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THE JUSTICE OF GOD



JESUS WELCOMES LITTLE CHILDREN

Day 9 Day 9 Day 9 Day 9 Day 9 Day 9 Day 9 Day 9 Day 9

Matthew 19.13-15

Jesus and the children

19:13 People brought little children to him, for him to lay his hands on them and say a prayer. The disciples turned them away,

19:14 but Jesus said, 'Let the little children alone, and do not stop them coming to me; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs'.

19:15 Then he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

Reflections:

FFC Reading Plan
THE JUSTICE OF GOD



LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

Day 8 Day 8 Day 8 Day 8 Day 8 Day 8 Day 8 Day 8 Day 8
Matthew 5.43-48

The new standard higher than the old

5:43 'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy.

5:44 But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you;

5:45 in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike.

5:46 For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not?

5:47 And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not?

5:48 You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.

[Reflections:](#)

FFC Reading Plan
THE JUSTICE OF GOD

25:5 or harvest your ungathered corn or gather grapes from your untrimmed vine. It is to be a year of rest for the land.

25:6 The sabbath of the land will itself feed you and your servants, men and women, your hired labourer, your guest, and all who live with you.

25:7 For your cattle too, and the animals on your land, its produce will serve as food.

b. The Year of Jubilee

25:8 "You are to count seven weeks of years - seven times seven years, that is to say a period of seven weeks of years, forty-nine years.

25:9 And on the tenth day of the seventh month you shall sound the trumpet; on the Day of Atonement you shall sound the trumpet throughout the land.

25:10 You will declare this fiftieth year sacred and proclaim the liberation of all the inhabitants of the land. This is to be a jubilee for you; each of you will return to his ancestral home, each to his own clan.

25:11 This fiftieth year is to be a jubilee year for you: you will not sow, you will not harvest the ungathered corn, you will not gather from the untrimmed vine.

25:12 The jubilee is to be a holy thing to you, you will eat what comes from the fields.

25:13 "In this year of jubilee each of you is to return to his ancestral home.

25:14 If you buy or sell with your neighbour, let no one wrong his brother.

25:15 If you buy from your neighbour, this must take into account the number of years since the jubilee: according to the number of productive years he will fix the price.

FFC Reading Plan
THE JUSTICE OF GOD

25:16 The greater the number of years, the higher shall be the price demanded; the less the number of years, the greater the reduction; for what he is selling you is a certain number of harvests.

25:17 Let none of you wrong his neighbour, but fear your God; I am Yahweh your God.

25:18 "You must put my laws and customs into practice; you must keep them, practise them; and so you shall be secure in your possession of the land.

25:19 The land will give its fruit, you will eat your fill and live in security.

The divine guarantee

25:20 "In case you should ask: What shall we eat in this seventh year if we do not sow or harvest the produce?

25:21 I have ordered my blessing to be on you every sixth year, which will therefore provide for you for three years.

25:22 You will have the old produce to eat while you are sowing in the eighth year and even as late as the ninth year; you will eat the old produce, while waiting for the harvest of that year.

Consequences of the holiness of land and people

a. The land: redemption of landed property

25:23 "Land must not be sold in perpetuity, for the land belongs to me, and to me you are only strangers and guests.

25:24 You will allow a right of redemption on all your landed property.

25:25 If your brother falls on evil days and has to sell his patrimony, his nearest relation shall come to him and

FFC Reading Plan
THE JUSTICE OF GOD

8:8 Is this not the reason for the earthquakes, for its inhabitants all mourning, and all of it heaving, like the Nile, then subsiding, like the river of Egypt?

Reflections:

FFC Reading Plan
THE JUSTICE OF GOD



LET JUSTICE ROLL DOWN

Day 7 Day 7 Day 7 Day 7 Day 7 Day 7 Day 7 Day 7 Day 7
Amos 5:21-24; 8:4-8

Against formalism in religion

5:21 I hate and despise your feasts, I take no pleasure in your solemn festivals.

5:22 When you offer me holocausts,I reject your oblations, and refuse to look at your sacrifices of fattened cattle.

5:23 Let me have no more of the din of your chanting, no more of your strumming on harps.

5:24 But let justice flow like water, and integrity like an unfailing stream.

Against swindlers and exploiters

8:4 Listen to this, you who trample on the needy and try to suppress the poor people of the country,

8:5 you who say, 'When will New Moon be over so that we can sell our corn, and sabbath, so that we can market our wheat? Then by lowering the bushel, raising the shekel, by swindling and tampering with the scales,

8:6 we can buy up the poor for money, and the needy for a pair of sandals, and get a price even for the sweepings of the wheat.'

8:7 Yahweh swears it by the pride of Jacob, 'Never will I forget a single thing you have done'.

FFC Reading Plan
THE JUSTICE OF GOD

exercise his right of redemption on what his brother has sold.

25:26 The man who has no one to exercise this right can regain his property in this way: when he has found the means to effect the redemption,

25:27 he is to calculate the number of years that the alienation would have lasted, repay to the purchaser the sum due for the time still to run, and so return to his property.

25:28 If he cannot find the sum for paying the compensation, the property sold shall remain in the possession of the purchaser until the jubilee year. In the jubilee year, the latter must relinquish it and return to his own property.

25:29 "If anyone sells a dwelling house that is in a walled town, he shall have the right of redemption until the expiry of the year following the sale. His right of redemption is limited to the year;

25:30 and if the redemption has not been effected by the end of the year, this house in the town shall be the property of the purchaser and his descendants in perpetuity; he need not relinquish it at the jubilee.

25:31 But houses in villages not enclosed by walls will be considered as situated in the open country; they carry the right of redemption, and the purchaser must relinquish them at the jubilee.

25:32 "As regards the towns of the Levites, any property in the towns possessed by them shall carry a perpetual right of redemption in their favour.

25:33 If it is a Levite who is affected by the right of redemption, at the jubilee he must come out of the property that was sold and return to his house, to the town

FFC Reading Plan
THE JUSTICE OF GOD

in which he has a title to property. For the houses in the towns of the Levites are their property in the midst of the sons of Israel,

25:34 and the arable land depending on these towns cannot be sold, for it is their property for ever.

b. The people: loans and enfranchisement

25:35 "If your brother who is living with you falls on evil days and is unable to support himself with you, you must support him as you would a stranger or a guest, and he must continue to live with you.

25:36 Do not make him work for you, do not take interest from him; fear your God, and let your brother live with you.

25:37 You are not to lend him money at interest, or give him food to make a profit out of it.

25:38 I am Yahweh your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt to give you the land of Canaan and to be your God.

25:39 "If your brother falls on evil days when he is with you and sells himself to you, you must not impose a slave's work on him;

25:40 he shall be like a hired man or a guest, and shall work with you until the jubilee year.

25:41 Then he shall leave you, he and his children; he shall return to his clan and regain possession of his ancestral property.

25:42 For they are my servants, these whom I have brought out of Egypt, and they must not be sold like slaves.

25:43 You must not be a hard master to him, but you must fear your God.

FFC Reading Plan
THE JUSTICE OF GOD



JUSTICE TO THE NEEDY

Day 6 Day 6 Day 6 Day 6 Day 6 Day 6 Day 6 Day 6 Day 6

Psalm 82

PSALM 82

Against corrupt judges

82:1 God stands in the divine assembly, among the gods he dispenses justice:

82:2 'No more mockery of justice, no more favouring the wicked! (pause)

82:3 Let the weak and the orphan have justice, be fair to the wretched and destitute;

82:4 rescue the weak and needy, save them from the clutches of the wicked!'

82:5 Ignorant and senseless, they carry on blindly, undermining the very basis of earthly society.

82:6 I once said, 'You too are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you',

82:7 but all the same, you shall die like other men; as one man, princes, you shall fall,

82:8 Rise, God, dispense justice throughout the world, since no nation is excluded from your ownership.

[Reflections:](#)

FFC Reading Plan
THE JUSTICE OF GOD

24:15 You must pay him his wage each day, not allowing the sun to set before you do, for he is poor and is anxious for it; otherwise he may appeal to Yahweh against you, and it would be a sin for you.

24:16 'Fathers may not be put to death for their sons, nor sons for fathers. Each is to be put to death for his own

24:17 'You must not pervert justice in dealing with a stranger or an orphan, nor take a widow's garment in pledge.

24:18 Remember that you were a slave in Egypt and that Yahweh your God redeemed you from there. That is why I lay this charge on you.

24:19 'When reaping the harvest in your field, if you have overlooked a sheaf in that field, do not go back for it. Leave it for the stranger, the orphan and the widow, so that Yahweh your God may bless you in all your undertakings.

24:20 'When you beat your olive trees you must not go over the branches twice. Let anything left be for the stranger, the orphan and the widow.

24:21 'When you harvest your vineyard you must not pick it over a second time. Let anything left be for the stranger, the orphan and the widow.

[Reflections:](#)

FFC Reading Plan
THE JUSTICE OF GOD

25:44 "The servants you have, men and women, shall come from the nations round you; from these you may purchase servants, men and women.

25:45 You may also purchase them from the children of the strangers who live among you, and from their families living with you who have been born on your soil. They shall be your property

25:46 and you may leave them as an inheritance to your sons after you, to hold in perpetual possession. These you may have for slaves; but to your brothers, the sons of Israel, you must not be hard masters.

25:47 "If some stranger or settler among you grows rich, and your brother falls on evil days and is in difficulties with him and sells himself to him, to this stranger or settler among you or to one of his descendants,

25:48 he shall enjoy the right of redemption after sale, and one of his brothers may redeem him.

25:49 His paternal uncle, his uncle's son, or a member of his own family may redeem him; if he has the means, he may redeem himself.

25:50 By agreement with his purchaser, he must count the number of years between the year of sale and the jubilee year; the sum of the price of sale must be calculated at the annual rate for these years, his time being valued as that of a hired man.

25:51 If there are still many years to run, in proportion to their number he must refund part of his sale price as payment for his redemption.

25:52 And if there are only a few years still to run before the jubilee year, he must calculate in proportion to the number of these years what shall be refunded for his redemption,

FFC Reading Plan
THE JUSTICE OF GOD

25:53 the calculation being made as if he were hired by the year. You must see that the man is not hardly dealt with.

25:54 "If he has not been redeemed in any of these ways, he shall go free in the jubilee year, he and his children with him.

25:55 For they are my servants, these sons of Israel; they are my servants whom I have brought out of the land of Egypt. I am Yahweh your God.

[Reflections:](#)

FFC Reading Plan
THE JUSTICE OF GOD



GOD IS WITH THE LEAST

Day 5 Day 5 Day 5 Day 5 Day 5 Day 5 Day 5 Day 5 Day 5
Deuteronomy 24.10-21

More protective measures

24:10 'If you are making your fellow a loan on pledge, you are not to go into his house and seize the pledge, whatever it may be.

24:11 You must stay outside, and the man to whom you are making the loan shall bring the pledge out to you.

24:12 And if the man is poor, you are not to go to bed with his pledge in your possession;

24:13 you must return it to him at sunset so that he can sleep in his cloak and bless you; and it will be a good action on your part in the sight of Yahweh your God.

24:14 You are not to exploit the hired servant who is poor and destitute, whether he is one of your brothers or a stranger who lives in your towns.