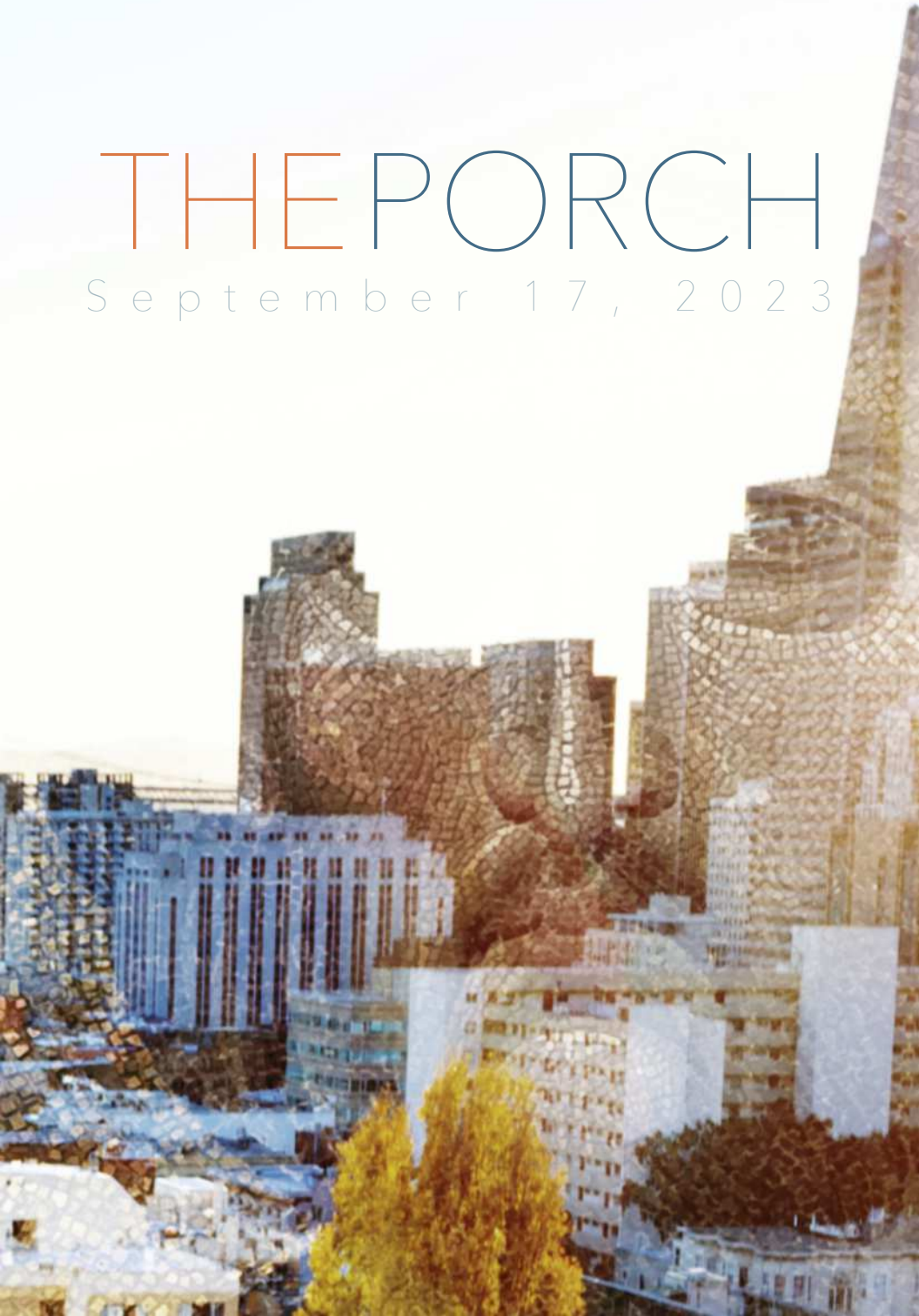


# THE PORCH

September 17, 2023



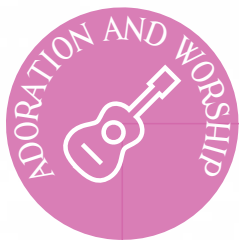
## About Our Liturgy

We are all creatures of habit. Habits and rhythms shape who we are. Our Sunday gatherings are designed to help us press the story of Jesus into our souls and change who we are by repeating that same story over and over again.

Every week we gather to remember and celebrate these same old gospel truths: that we are sinners but we have a great savior. That the death and resurrection of Jesus brought his kingdom here. That we have been adopted into the family of God. That he has called us to love each other and our city. That we were created for a perfect world, and that this world is not all there is.

So we invite you to participate with us as a group of imperfect people who tell the same story over and over again, the story of King Jesus.





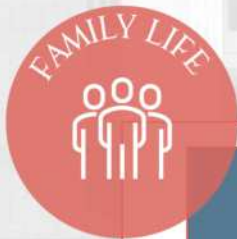
## Call To Worship

### Singing

\* The American author David Foster Wallace wrote, "In the day-to-day trenches of adult life, there is actually no such thing as atheism. There is no such thing as not worshipping. Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship." This is a powerful statement from a man who was not a follower of Jesus. He was 100% correct. We all have something at the center of our lives. Something that we believe will make us happy. Something that will fulfill us. Even those who follow Jesus often find that we are serving idols, something that ultimately won't fulfill us.

The gospel story tells us what will: Jesus Christ. Only he can fulfill us. Only he can redeem us. Only he can heal our deep spiritual wounds. Only he can give hope. Serving him as king is why we were created. This is why we open our gatherings with worship. Music touches our souls in a way that nothing else can. And so we use music as the people of God have done for thousands of years to remind ourselves that we serve an amazing King and that only he should be at the center of our lives.





new here?  
let us know who you are  
[porchsf.com/sunday](http://porchsf.com/sunday)

#### VISITOR CONNECT

Name\*

Email

Phone Number

Message



subscribe to the podcast  
[porchsf.com/sermons](http://porchsf.com/sermons)



\* One of the beautiful facets of the gospel is how it brings all kinds of people together (Galatians 3:28). We are God's people. We are called to live our lives together and to love one another. In this part of our gathering, we celebrate this truth. We pray for each other. We chat while getting coffee and tea. We talk about what's going on in the life of the family.



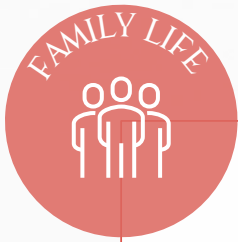
# Ezekiel JOURNALS

NEW TEACHING SERIES STARTS FEBRUARY 5  
GRAB YOUR JOURNAL ON THE BACK TABLE

A colorful cartoon illustration of a neighborhood scene. In the foreground, several children are engaged in various activities: one is playing a guitar, another is on a skateboard, a girl is on a tricycle, a boy is with a soccer ball, and another is on a bicycle. In the background, there are houses, a large green tree, and a street with cars. The text "OCTOBER 15" and "EXCELSIOR DISTRICT" is written in large, bold, red letters across the top of the illustration.

**OCTOBER 15 EXCELSIOR DISTRICT**

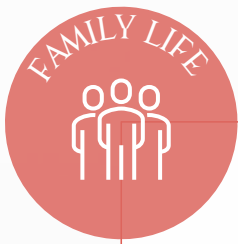
**SUNDAY STREETS** **LIVABLE CITY** **11AM-4PM FREE • GRATIS • LIBRE • 免費**



## Missional Family Dinner Schedule

Wednesday Nights | 6:00-8:15 PM

- ③ **September 20** | Brackett Home | Chef Melissa  
Homework: HTSTGB A1
  
- Ⓛ **September 27** | *No Wednesday Night Dinner*
  
- ① **October 4** | Brackett Home | Friends Night
  
- ② **October 11** | Brackett Home | Guest Chef Dennis  
Homework: HTSTGB A2
  
- ③ **October 18** | Brackett Home | Chef Melissa  
Homework: HTSTGB A3
  
- Ⓛ **October 25** | Downstairs SFEFC | BYOE Dinner  
Homework: HTSTGB B1
  
- ① **November 1** | Brackett Home | Friends Night
  
- ② **November 8** | Brackett Home | Guest Chef  
Homework: HTSTGB B2



## Prayer

*Monthly Schedule*

**Week 1:** We read a prayer from church history.

**Week 2:** We take requests and pray for each other.

**Week 3:** Congregational Prayer.

**Week 4:** Praying the Psalms.

**Week 5:** We take requests and pray for each other.

## Coffee

This quick time of greeting isn't a break in the worship but rather a continuation of our worship. Take five minutes to grab a cup of coffee and say hello to someone you haven't met yet.





## New City Catechism

**Question 40:** What should we pray?

**Answer:** The whole Word of God directs and inspires us in what we should pray, including the prayer Jesus himself taught us.

**Question 41:** What is the Lord's Prayer?

**Answer:** Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

### Scripture Reading *Psalm 145:1-8 (ESV)*

I will extol you, my God and King,  
**and bless your name forever and ever.**

Every day I will bless you  
**and praise your name forever and ever.**

Great is the Lord, **and greatly to be praised,**  
and his greatness is unsearchable.

One generation shall commend your works to another,  
and shall declare your mighty acts.

**On the glorious splendor of your majesty,  
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.**

They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,  
**and I will declare your greatness.**

They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness  
**and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.**

The Lord is gracious and merciful,  
**slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

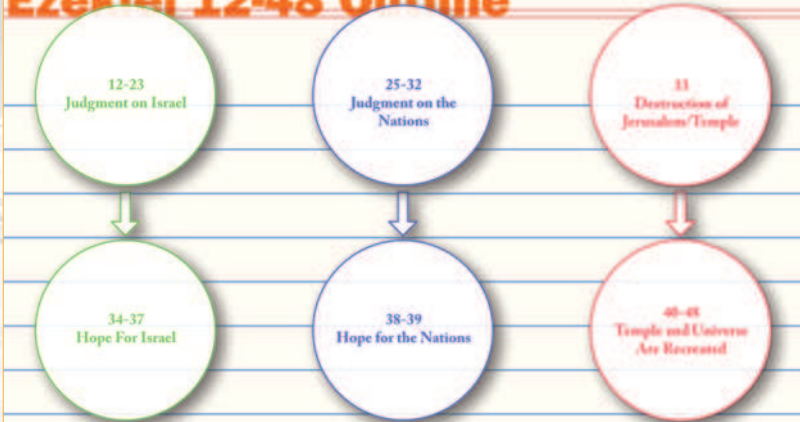
\* 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, "All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." God's word is precious. This time is less about the words of the preacher and more about the words of God. So here at The Porch we usually go through an entire book of the Bible verse by verse. We want to soak up the truth. We want to see Jesus on every page. We want to know the gospel better than we did yesterday. When that happens, we will be more loving, more humble, more hopeful, more joyful, and more blown away by what we learn about our King.





## Ezekiel 38-39 | A Better Hope for the Nations

### Ezekiel 12-48 Outline



#### Setup

**Ezekiel 38:1** The word of the Lord came to me: 2 "Son of man, face Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. Prophesy against him 3 and say,

#### Oracle #1

'This is what the Lord God says: Look, I am against you, Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. 4 I will turn you around, put hooks in your jaws, and bring you out with all your army, including horses and riders, who are all splendidly dressed, a huge assembly armed with large and small shields, all of them brandishing swords. 5 Persia, Cush, and Put are with them, all of them with shields and helmets; 6 Gomer with all its troops; and Beth-togarmah from the remotest parts of the north along with all its troops—many peoples are with you.

7 " 'Be prepared and get yourself ready, you and your whole assembly that has been mobilized around you; you will be their guard. 8 After a long time you will be summoned.



In the last years you will enter a land that has been restored from war and regathered from many peoples to the mountains of Israel, which had long been a ruin. They were brought out from the peoples, and all of them now live securely. 9 You, all of your troops, and many peoples with you will advance, coming like a thunderstorm; you will be like a cloud covering the land.

### **Oracle #2**

10 “ ‘This is what the Lord God says: On that day, thoughts will arise in your mind, and you will devise an evil plan. 11 You will say, “I will advance against a land of open villages; I will come against a tranquil people who are living securely, all of them living without walls and without bars or gates”—12 in order to seize spoil and carry off plunder, to turn your hand against ruins now inhabited and against a people gathered from the nations, who have been acquiring cattle and possessions and who live at the center of the world. 13 Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish with all its rulers will ask you, “Have you come to seize spoil? Have you mobilized your assembly to carry off plunder, to make off with silver and gold, to take cattle and possessions, to seize plenty of spoil?” ‘

### **Oracle #3**

14 “Therefore prophesy, son of man, and say to Gog, ‘This is what the Lord God says: On that day when my people Israel are dwelling securely, will you not know this 15 and come from your place in the remotest parts of the north—you and many peoples with you, who are all riding horses—a huge assembly, a powerful army? 16 You will advance against my people Israel like a cloud covering the land. It will happen in the last days, Gog, that I will bring you against my land so that the nations may know me, when I demonstrate my holiness through you in their sight.



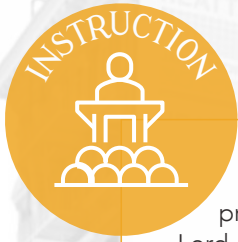
#### Oracle #4

17 " This is what the Lord God says: Are you the one I spoke about in former times through my servants, the prophets of Israel, who for years prophesied in those times that I would bring you against them? 18 Now on that day, the day when Gog comes against the land of Israel—this is the declaration of the Lord God—my wrath will flare up. 19 I swear in my zeal and fiery wrath: On that day there will be a great earthquake in the land of Israel. 20 The fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the animals of the field, every creature that crawls on the ground, and every human being on the face of the earth will tremble before me. The mountains will be demolished, the cliffs will collapse, and every wall will fall to the ground. 21 I will call for a sword against him on all my mountains—this is the declaration of the Lord God—and every man's sword will be against his brother. 22 I will execute judgment on him with plague and bloodshed. I will pour out torrential rain, hailstones, fire, and burning sulfur on him, as well as his troops and the many peoples who are with him. 23 I will display my greatness and holiness, and will reveal myself in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the Lord.'

#### Oracle #5

39:1 "As for you, son of man, prophesy against Gog and say, 'This is what the Lord God says: Look, I am against you, Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. 2 I will turn you around, drive you on, and lead you up from the remotest parts of the north. I will bring you against the mountains of Israel. 3 Then I will knock your bow from your left hand and make your arrows drop from your right hand. 4 You, all your troops, and the peoples who are with you will fall on the mountains of Israel. I will give you as food to every kind of predatory bird and to the wild animals. 5 You will fall on the open field, for I have spoken. This is the declaration of the Lord God.

6 " 'I will send fire against Magog and those who live securely on the coasts and islands. Then they will know that I am the Lord.



7 So I will make my holy name known among my people Israel and will no longer allow it to be profaned. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord, the Holy One in Israel. 8 Yes, it is coming, and it will happen. This is the declaration of the Lord God. This is the day I have spoken about.

9 " 'Then the inhabitants of Israel's cities will go out, kindle fires, and burn the weapons—the small and large shields, the bows and arrows, the clubs and spears. For seven years they will use them to make fires. 10 They will not gather wood from the countryside or cut it down from the forests, for they will use the weapons to make fires. They will take the loot from those who looted them and plunder those who plundered them. This is the declaration of the Lord God.

11 " 'Now on that day I will give Gog a burial place there in Israel—the Travelers' Valley east of the Sea. It will block those who travel through, for Gog and all his hordes will be buried there. So it will be called Hordes of Gog Valley. 12 The house of Israel will spend seven months burying them in order to cleanse the land. 13 All the people of the land will bury them and their fame will spread on the day I display my glory. This is the declaration of the Lord God.

14 " 'They will appoint men on a full-time basis to pass through the land and bury the invaders who remain on the surface of the ground, in order to cleanse it. They will make their search at the end of the seven months. 15 When they pass through the land and one of them sees a human bone, he will set up a marker next to it until the buriers have buried it in Hordes of Gog Valley. 16 There will even be a city named Hamonah there. So they will cleanse the land.'

#### **Oracle #6**

17 "Son of man, this is what the Lord God says: Tell every kind of bird and all the wild animals, 'Assemble and come! Gather from all around to my sacrificial feast that I am slaughtering for you, a great feast on the mountains of Israel;



you will eat flesh and drink blood. 18 You will eat the flesh of mighty men and drink the blood of the earth's princes: rams, lambs, male goats, and all the fattened bulls of Bashan. 19 You will eat fat until you are satisfied and drink blood until you are drunk, at my sacrificial feast that I have prepared for you. 20 At my table you will eat your fill of horses and riders, of mighty men and all the warriors. This is the declaration of the Lord God.'

21 "I will display my glory among the nations, and all the nations will see the judgment I have executed and the hand I have laid on them. 22 From that day forward the house of Israel will know that I am the Lord their God. 23 And the nations will know that the house of Israel went into exile on account of their iniquity, because they dealt unfaithfully with me. Therefore, I hid my face from them and handed them over to their enemies, so that they all fell by the sword. 24 I dealt with them according to their uncleanness and transgressions, and I hid my face from them.

#### **Oracle #7**

25 "So this is what the Lord God says: Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob and have compassion on the whole house of Israel, and I will be jealous for my holy name. 26 They will feel remorse for their disgrace and all the unfaithfulness they committed against me, when they live securely in their land with no one to frighten them. 27 When I bring them back from the peoples and gather them from the countries of their enemies, I will demonstrate my holiness through them in the sight of many nations. 28 They will know that I am the Lord their God when I regather them to their own land after having exiled them among the nations. I will leave none of them behind. 29 I will no longer hide my face from them, for I will pour out my Spirit on the house of Israel." This is the declaration of the Lord God.

**Revelation 20:7-10** When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will go out to deceive the nations at the four corners of



the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle. Their number is like the sand of the sea. 9 They came up across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the encampment of the saints, the beloved city. Then fire came down from heaven and consumed them. 10 The devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet are, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

**Iain M. Duguid**, “We can see two levels of fulfilment. On the one hand, the symbolism speaks of an ever present reality, namely, human and satanic opposition to God and his people. History is littered with ‘Gogs’—those who have thought they would eradicate the people of God. They have not triumphed so far, and this vision affirms that they never will.

On the other hand, the extension and application of Ezekiel’s vision by John in Revelation leads us to anticipate that the battle between God and his enemies will ultimately come to a climactic finale in which all the forces of Satan and those who have allied with him will be defeated by the power of Christ and then be destroyed for ever.

The defeat and destruction of Gog thus offer us prophetic assurance of the ultimate defeat and destruction of all that opposes God and endangers his people. Likewise, just as the picture of comprehensive destruction of evil in chapters 38–39 ushers in the prospect of Yahweh dwelling with Israel reconstituted in their land and worshipping him in the perfection of his restored sanctuary (chapters 40–48), so the defeat of Satan in Revelation 19–20 ushers in the great vision of God dwelling with his people drawn from all nations in a new creation, worshipping the Lamb in the perfection of his presence that will need no temple.”





## Singing

\* In the sermon we listened to the gospel preached. Here, we respond with worship. We sing the praises of the God who has saved us and given us hope.



## Confession & Lament Communion Singing

\*The gospel is not the story of what we do to earn God's love. The gospel is the story of what God has done to bring us back to life. The problem is that we are forgetful and we all constantly slip into moralism where we think that we need to live a certain way to earn God's love. This is the time in our gathering where we intentionally confess our sin and take communion to remind us of the grace of God. We remember that we are not redeemed by doing anything. We are redeemed by the death of Jesus in our place.



## Benediction

### Eph 3:20-21

<sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,  
<sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

\*We are not just followers of King Jesus for a few hours on Sunday morning. We are ambassadors of his kingdom everywhere we go. With our families. At work. With our friends and neighbors. So every week, we finish our gatherings by remembering that we represent him everywhere we go and that we are called to radically love people so that they see him in our lives.



**THE PORCH**  
FOLLOWERS OF JESUS

[PORCHSF.COM/WELCOME](http://PORCHSF.COM/WELCOME)