

PRAISE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
of LOS ANGELES

2025:
The Year of Proclamation

**BIBLE STUDIES RELATED
TO THE SUNDAY SERMON SCHEDULE**

Prepared By
Pastor Courtney Hall

Updated 1/31/25

INTRODUCTION TO 2025 AS "THE YEAR OF PROCLAMATION"

THEME VERSES FOR 2025

- **Isaiah 61:1a, 2 / Luke 4:18a, 19** → “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me...to **PROCLAIM** the favorable year of the LORD.”
- **Luke 4:43** → “I must **PROCLAIM** the Good News of the Kingdom because that is why I was sent.”

FIVE YEARS OF PURPOSE (2021-2025)

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE.” (Romans 8:28)

- **2021 – The Year of Purpose / Exodus 9:16**, “But I have raised you up **for this very purpose**, that I might show you My power & that My Name might be proclaimed in all the earth.”
- **2022 – The Year of Patience / James 1:4**, “Let **patience** produce its perfect work, so that you may be mature & complete, lacking nothing.”
- **2023 – The Year of Perseverance / Hebrews 10:36**, “You need to **persevere** so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised.”
- **2024 – The Year of ProVision & Vision / Proverbs 29:18**, “Without **VISION** [revelation], the people roam wild, but the one who keeps to God’s Word is bound to be blessed [**PROVISION**].”
- **2025 – The Year of Proclamation / Luke 4:43**, “I must **proclaim** the Good News of the Kingdom because that is why I was sent.”

2025 SERMON SERIES

NOTE: *This schedule is subject to change. It does not include all topics for guest speakers, etc. The titles & topics provided are for the English and combined services but in many instances may be used for the Tagalog service messages, as well.*

- **Dec. 29, 2024–Jan. 19, 2025 / The Year of Proclamation**
Various Scripture Texts
- **Jan. 26–Mar. 30 / A Prince of Peace: Studying Solomon**
1 Kings, 2 Chronicles, Proverbs & Psalms, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon
- **Apr. 13-20 / Road to Resurrection: An Easter Sermon Series**
*PASSION WEEK SERMON SERIES | *Various Scripture Texts**
- **Apr. 27–Aug. 31 / The Book of Acts (Vol. 1): Proclaiming the Kingdom**
Acts 1-15
- **Sep. 7–Nov. 9 / Pure Truth: The Letters of Peter**
1 & 2 Peter
- **Nov. 16-23 / Proclaim the Feasts of the Lord**
Various Scripture Texts
- **Nov. 30-Dec. 24 / Hark! The Herald Angels Sing: Proclaiming the Prince of Peace**
*ADVENT SERMON SERIES | *Various Scripture Texts**

UPDATED: 1/31/25 (CRH)

SERMON SERIES (in six parts)
2025: THE YEAR OF PROCLAMATION
DECEMBER 29, 2024 – JANUARY 19

DECEMBER 2024

- 12/29/24 –Pt 1: “The Purpose of Proclamation: Calling Each Thing By Its Right Name” (Genesis 1-3; Isaiah 12:4)

JANUARY 2025

- 1/05/25 –Pt 2: “Anointed: Proclaiming the Year of the Lord’s Favor” (Isa 61:1-4; Luke 4:14-30)
- 1/12/25 –Pt 3: “At Hand: Proclaiming the Gospel of Repentance & Release” (Psalm 34:4; Proverbs 28:13; Matthew 4:12-25; 19:27-30)
- 1/19/25 (MLK Jr. WKND) –Pt 4: “Assigned: Proclaiming the Word of Christ” (Acts 8:5-8; 9:10-28; Romans 10:6-7)

WEEK FOUR (January 19-25)
PREACHING: Pt. 4, “Assigned: Proclaiming the Word of Christ”
SERMON TEXTS – ACTS 8:5-8; 9:10-28; ROMANS 10:6-7

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL CONTEMPLATION and/or GROUP DISCUSSION

1. In Luke 4:43, Jesus describes His mission as One SENT to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God. Who SENT Jesus? Considering that Jesus is both fully divine and fully human, what significance do you see in His use of the term SENT? How does it reflect on Jesus SENDING you as His disciple and witness (cf. Acts 1:8)?

2. In Colossian 1:25-28, the Apostle Paul declares that God commissioned him “to proclaim...the Word of God in its fullness...which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. He is the One we proclaim...” How would you explain to someone in your own words what Paul is trying to say by this? Specifically, what do you think he means by proclaiming “the fullness” of the scriptures? How is “Christ in you the hope of glory”? And how can we “proclaim Christ” to others?

3. What do you think Paul means in Romans 10:10 when he says that “it is with your heart that you believe & are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess & are saved.” How would you describe the difference between justification in this sense and salvation? Is it possible for someone to believe something in their heart and fail to profess it with their mouth, or to profess something with their mouth that they *don’t* believe in their heart? Why might this matter?

4. In Acts 8, what actions of Philip proved so effective in proclaiming the Messiah to the Samaritans? Acts 9:22 states that Paul became more influential in leading people to Christ & more baffling to those who opposed his message “by proving that Jesus is the Messiah”? What do you think Paul did to prove Jesus is Lord, and by what means did he do it? How do the actions of Philip & Paul in these passages relate to how *you* proclaim the Messiah to people around you today?

ADDITIONAL READINGS FOR THIS WEEK:

DAYS	READ	REFLECTION QUESTIONS
Mon. 1/20	Isaiah 61:1-4	Why do you think this prophecy of Isaiah seems to combine “the Year of the Lord’s Favor [i.e. the Year of Jubilee] & the Day of Vengeance of our God” (v.2)? How are these NOT opposites?
Tue. 1/21	Luke 4:14-30	Why do you think Jesus choose the passage from Isaiah 61 that we read yesterday to be His introductory sermon to His hometown synagogue? How does His message relate to you?
Wed. 1/22	Matthew 4:12-25	Why did Jesus & His followers begin the Gospel message with a call to repent? How does repentance lead to a full & proper response to God that leads to a full receipt of deliverance?
Thu. 1/23	Acts 8:1-8	Verse 7 states that “with shrieks, impure spirits [i.e. demonic spirits] came out of many” & many paralytics & lame people were healed. Should we expect similar results to the proclamation of the Gospel by followers of Jesus today? How might people respond to this?
Fri. 1/24	Acts 9:10-28	This passage concludes by describing Paul as “speaking boldly in the Name of the Lord” despite the risks to his life for doing so. How can you gain such boldness in & for Christ?
Sat. 1/25	Romans 10:6-17	What does Isaiah 52:7 (quoted here in v. 15) mean when it says the feet of those who bring Good News are beautiful? How does “faith come from hearing” God’s message (v.17) and how does the process of that faith transmission through hearing inform your proclaiming God’s message to others around you? Is this process occurring in your life? Is it a primary focus of your living? How can you take daily steps & set strategic goals to make this a central focus?

SERMON SERIES (in ten parts)
A PRINCE OF PEACE: STUDYING SOLOMON
JANUARY 26 – MARCH 30

JANUARY

- 1/26/25 –Pt 1: “The King of Wisdom” (1 Kings 3:16-28; 4:20-34 / 2 Chron 1:14-17)

FEBRUARY

- 2/02 – Pt 2: “Building the House of the Lord” (1 Kings 5, 6, 7 / 2 Chron 2, 3, 4)
- 2/09 – Pt 3: “Let Glory Fill This House” (1 Kings 8 / 2 Chron 5, 6; 7:1-11)
- 2/16 (PRES. DAY WKND) – Pt 4: “Called By My Name” (1 Kings 9:1-9 / 2 Chron 7:12-22)
- 2/23 – Pt 5: “Building the Cities of the King” (1 Kings 9:10-28 / 2 Chron 8:1-18)

MARCH

- 3/02 – Part 6: “The Word Is True” (1 Kings 10:1-29 / 2 Chron 9:1-28)
- 3/09 – Pt 7: “Can Wisdom Go Wrong? The Sins of Solomon” (1 Kings 11:1-43 / 2 Chron 9:29-31)
- 3/16 (PCF-LA 36th ANNIV) – Pt 8: “The Proverbs of the King” (Ps 72:1-20; 127:1-5; Prov 1-31)
- 3/23 – Pt 9: “The Problems of the Preacher” (Ecclesiastes 1-12)
- 3/30 – Pt 10: “The Song of Songs: Proclaiming Perfect Love” (Song of Solomon 1-8)

APRIL

- 4/06 – *NEXT GEN YOUTH-LED SERVICE (Message TBA)*

WEEK FIVE (January 26 — February 1)
PREACHING: Pt. 1, “The King of Wisdom”
SERMON TEXTS – 1 KINGS 3:16-28; 4:20-34 / 2 CHRONICLES 1:14-17

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL CONTEMPLATION and/or GROUP DISCUSSION

1. The story of Solomon’s judgment between the two mothers competing for custody of an infant in dispute is a tale tinged with tragedy, inasmuch as the disagreement arises after the accidental smothering death of one of the women’s babies under its mother in their sleep. The fact that both mothers are identified as prostitutes may further taint the story with a tawdry tone in the mind of modern readers. Add to these facts the apparent brutality of Solomon’s initial judgment that the child should be literally divided between the two women with a sword, and the modern observer of this story may find it difficult to appreciate why it’s used to present Solomon’s remarkable wisdom, much less how it reflects the wisdom of God. But in today’s teaching, Pastor Court presents this episode in the Scriptures as evidence of how God’s wisdom is founded in love & relationship. How would you explain this finding in your own words to someone else? How is Solomon’s wisdom in this case illustrative of God’s love and relational qualities?

2. Solomon’s most enduring legacy is of his wisdom. Do you think it’s true that wisdom from God impacts everything in life? How so? How do the descriptions of Solomon’s reign in today’s passages enhance your understanding of the principles of wisdom’s broad influence?

3. How would explain to someone how wisdom from knowing God & following His Word brings divine provision & peace into one’s life? What are some of Jesus’ teachings that reflect these truths? What does the Bible say about the Holy Spirit’s role in bringing divine wisdom, provision, & peace to bear on the lives of believers?

ADDITIONAL READINGS FOR THIS WEEK:

DAYS	READ	REFLECTION QUESTIONS
Mon. 1/27	1 Kings 3:16-28	How does the mother willing to give up custody of her infant child to the other, deceitful mother in order to preserve the life of her child form a pivotal point in this story of Solomon’s wisdom & what example does it give us of godly love & wisdom?
Tue. 1/28	1 Kings 4: 20-28	How does the immense personal & royal wealth amassed by Solomon during his reign reflect the benefits & blessings of God’s wisdom? Consider God’s words to Solomon when he asked God for wisdom in 1 Kings 3:5-15 in your response.
Wed. 1/29	Luke 12:13-21	How do the man’s appeal to Jesus to judge on the division of inheritance with his brother & Jesus’ Parable of the Rich Fool in this passage compare & contrast with what we’re studying of Solomon this week. How does Solomon’s wisdom & faith distinguish him from someone who “stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God" (v.21)?
Thu. 1/30	2 Chron 1:14-17	Often in this sermon series we will talk about similarities & key distinctions between Solomon, a son of David & a prince of peace who built a temple for God, & Jesus, <i>the</i> Son of David & <i>the</i> Prince of Peace & King of kings who <i>IS</i> the Temple of God. How then do you reconcile Jesus’ words in Luke 6:20-26 & Matt 8:18-20 with the extraordinary wealth, reputation, privilege, & favor granted <i>by God</i> to Solomon during his reign? What can we learn from each about faith?
Fri. 1/31	1 Kings 4:29-34	In describing Solomon’s vast wisdom, this passage references that, like his father David before him, Solomon was a prophetic poetic worship leader <i>par excellence</i> . The men mentioned in v.31 were all temple poets & worship leaders (cf. Ps 88:1; 89:1; 1 Ch 2:6), & Solomon exceeded them in his gifting. What does this tell you about the relationship between worship & wisdom?
Sat. 2/01	Matt 6:19-24	In this passage from His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus goes to great lengths, even directly referencing Solomon (v.29), to articulate how Kingdom righteousness & faith exceed the value of worldly wealth. If we could ask him today, what do you suppose Solomon would say about this?

WEEK SIX (February 2-8)

PREACHING: Pt. 2, "Building the House of the Lord"

SERMON TEXTS – 1 KINGS 5:1-18; 6:1-38; 7:1-51 / 2 CHRON 2:1-18; 3:1-17; 4:1-22; 5:1

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL CONTEMPLATION and/or GROUP DISCUSSION

1. In 1 Kings 5:5, Solomon mentions how God told his father David that "Your son whom I will put on your throne in your place will build the temple for My Name." This is an example of how a prophetic statement of the Lord can have multiple applications and fulfillments. As seen in this week's sermon, Solomon certainly fulfilled his mandate to construct a temple for God. Yet the Lord's statement to David also has an even greater fulfillment in Jesus Christ, the Son of David (cf. Mt 1:1-17; Mk 10:47; Lk 2:4; Ro 1:3), who both cleansed the earthly temple and also revealed that He Himself is the spiritual Temple of God (Jn 2:13-22). As we enter into Christ by faith as believers, we in turn become members of His Body (Ro 12:5; 1 Co 12:27; Ep 1:22-23) and "living stones" (2 Pe 2:5) in this Temple of the Holy Spirit of God (1 Co 6:19; Re 3:12). With those prophetic & symbolic implications in mind, how does this impact your reading of this week's chapters in 1 Kings & 2 Chronicles describing the founding, furnishing, & finishing of the earthly temple? How might these images of awesome architecture, great artistry, & extraordinary resource wealth symbolize spiritual realities about what it means to be the Body of Christ? How should that inform the way we worship the Lord as a church?
2. The king of Tyre is a figure mentioned various places in Scripture. In different eras, obviously different individuals sat on the throne of Tyre. This week's passages reference Hiram I, a Phoenician king who ruled Tyre as it became a major trading empire. Indeed, his trade treaty with Solomon proves to be essential to the supply chain facilitating construction of the temple in Jerusalem, as well as a key facet of Solomon's international policy emphasizing diplomacy & mutual trade as bulwarks in establishing peace in the region. In later eras, however, just as many kings of Israel proved wayward & idolatrous (including to some extent, sadly, even Solomon himself), so also some Tyrian kings are later described as proud & power drunk. Indeed, by the time of the prophecies of Ezekiel, an unnamed king of Tyre is described in terms that many interpreters see as being a metaphor for Satan as a being of power & privilege whose pride goes before a great fall when God's judgment lands. Similarly, Ezekiel's visions include repeated occasions in which the prophet observes that despite the later destruction of Solomon's temple due to Israel's idolatry, God's glory remains undimmed & mobile throughout the earth (Ez 1, 10). Ezekiel also has a vision of a great rebuilt Temple of God yet to come (Ez 40-48). What do these parallels in the scripture reveal to you about the purpose of an earthly place for worshipping the Lord, both in terms of its value and its limitations? What kind of worship does God desire most? You can consider Jesus' words in Jn 4:19-26 & Bible passages such as Ps 40:6-8, Is 1:11-31, Je 7:21-23, Ho 6:6, He 13:15, & Ja 1:26-27 in your answer.

ADDITIONAL READINGS FOR THIS WEEK:

DAYS	READ	REFLECTION QUESTIONS
Mon. 2/03	2 Chron 2:1-18	Why do you think God's Word goes into such detail to record all the arrangements for the building of the temple and the various materials used? How do these details guide your worship?
Tue. 2/04	Genesis 22:1-18	Tradition holds that Mt. Moriah, the site on which God called Abraham to be willing to offer his son Isaac to the Lord & where God provided a redeemer ram to preserve Isaac. Why do you think would God desire & direct this very spot to be the site of the temple built for His Name?
Wed. 2/05	Exodus 20:1-26	How does Exodus 20 give the template for how right living & righteous worship are intrinsically connected? How can we live like this while relying on the Spirit & not upon our own strength?
Thu. 2/06	Deut 27:1-26	Dt 27:5-6 reiterates Ex 20:25 that only uncut stones shall be used for the altar of the Lord, which Solomon later observed (1 Ki 6:7). How does this again reflect our reliance on the Holy Spirit?
Fri. 2/07	2 Sam 24:15-25	A millennium after Abraham's experience with Isaac on Mt. Moriah in Ge 22, God redeemed Israel again, halting a plague at the same spot. How does David's worship on this spot anticipate the building of the temple there? What does this say about the power of repentance & worship?
Sat. 2/08	1 Kings 7:13-51	Like Bezalel & Oholiab in the creation of the Tabernacle (Ex 31, 35), so also the artist Hiram of Tyre (not the king) shows the correlation between artistic creativity & worship. How can you unleash greater creative expression in your life as worship, witness, & proclamation of the Lord?