



WEEK 4

MONDAY, MARCH 9 - SATURDAY, MARCH 14

MONDAY, MARCH 9TH

When One Chapter Ends

JOHN TERECH

Numbers 8:23–26 – Retirement of the Levites

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "This applies to the Levites: from twenty-five years old and upward they shall come to do duty in the service of the tent of meeting. And from the age of fifty years they shall withdraw from the duty of the service and serve no more. They minister to their brothers in the tent of meeting by keeping guard, but they shall do no service. Thus shall you do to the Levites in assigning their duties."

We try to focus on intentional succession planning in ECO, and that is not an easy task. While it looks good on paper and in presentations, the emotional toll of transition is a heavy price, especially on the outgoing leader. In our theme of calling and obedience, we must be attentive to when our particular service to the church should end or be transferred to another call. While your sense of call might never change, there are times when obedience tells us that one chapter must end so another can begin, and the hope of ministry is that the next chapter will always be better than the last. The Levites stopped their service at age fifty by the letter of the law. In ministry in our time, there are no specific rules for when a chapter must end, and sometimes our pride says, "They can't survive without me." But Jesus is and always will be the head of the church—it will survive without us.

I'm at the age where retirement is in sight. It is as if, on a long road trip using the navigation system, the miles ahead before the next move have shifted to include decimal points. That's when it is time to pay attention. Am I in the correct lane? Am I sure of the way forward as change is about to occur? No matter where you are in your ministry calling and career, be attentive. Be obedient. Be humble. Look to the future of your current call and position with hope that others will take it from here and do a wonderful thing with it. Your future is secure in Jesus, so don't worry about your next chapter, whether it be a new call or a different ministry in retirement. Pay attention to the emotion, embrace it as much as possible, and enjoy the process of moving to that next step, hearing the still small voice saying, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR - JOHN TERECH



John Terech is a former Wall Street executive and New York native. He graduated from Boston University with a degree in Business Administration and is a Professional Certified Coach with the International Coach Federation, and a Commissioned Lay Pastor in ECO. John has served in ministry in Palm City, Florida from 2005 to 2023 and currently in Cumming, Georgia. John also attended Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary and Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando. He is married to Patty Terech and they have 3 children – John III, a graduate of University of Central Florida, Joseph, graduating University of North Georgia in 2026 and Lindsay, a senior at South Forsyth High School.

Called to Go: The Heartbeat of God's Mission

REV. ROBSON GOMES, TH.M

Genesis 12:1–3

God's Mission runs like a golden thread throughout the entire story of Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation. It is not an addition to the plan of salvation; it is the plan. The story of redemption doesn't begin in a temple with rituals or laws. It begins with a call, a sending, and a promise to a man named Abram living in a fractured and confused world.

In Genesis 12, God, the Creator of all things, begins His movement to restore what was broken. And He starts not with a hero or a saint, but with a fallen man. There was nothing in Abram that could earn God's favor. It was pure, undeserved, scandalous grace—a grace that calls, transforms, and sends.

From the very beginning, we see a God who moves toward humanity. He creates, but He also redeems. He judges, but He also promises. After the rebellion in Eden (Genesis 3), the flood of violence (chapter 6), and the collective pride of Babel (chapter 11), we might expect God to walk away. But instead, He steps closer. He chooses to begin again through one man and his descendants because His heart still beats for His creation. Abram's call is the starting point of the *Missio Dei*, the Mission of God. It points ahead to that glorious vision in Revelation 7:9–10, where people from every nation, tribe, and language stand before the throne and before the Lamb. Abram's story is the seed of the Church, the beginning of everything God would one day do through His people.

And that story continues with us. What God began with Abram continues today in your life and mine. God still calls, and His call still begins with one word: Go. "Go" means leaving behind what feels safe—your comfort, your control, your familiar world. God never calls us to stay where we are. He calls us into the unknown, into a journey that depends entirely on Him. He doesn't reveal every step; He simply promises, "I will show you." And Abram went. That is the beauty of obedience. His journey wasn't perfect—he hesitated, doubted, and failed—but he went. That's what God asks of us too: not perfection, but willingness. God's call still unsettles us. It breaks our comfort and confronts our indifference. It pulls us away from shallow religiosity and invites us into faith that moves, trusts, and loves.

The promise of Genesis 12 is still alive. It blossomed in Christ and now grows through us. We were blessed to be a blessing. We were saved to serve. We were loved to love. A church that understands this call is not merely doing missions—it is living the Mission. Because God's Mission has faces—ours. So go. Simply go with open hands and a willing heart. Go and be a blessing wherever you are, because the Mission of God continues—it continues through you and me. Peace and good to all of you.

Prayer: Lord, I thank you for your abundant grace that reached me in Christ. I thank you that your blessing on me is not to keep me comfortable, but to make me a channel of Your love. Give me courage to go, willingness to serve, and compassion to bless. May I be faithful to Your redemptive plan and Your blessed call, and make me an instrument of Your Mission in the world. Send me, O Lord. In Jesus, our eldest brother, amen.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR - ROBSON GOMES



Robson is married to Juliane for almost 40 years, and they have 3 daughters and 3 grandchildren. He is a second career pastor, having worked in large companies as a Human Resources Manager before dedicating himself exclusively to the Ministry of the Word. Today he is fully dedicated himself to the advancing of the missional movement nationally, while pastoring a missional community in Belo Horizonte. He is also responsible for planting ECO in Brazil.

Awakened to His Presence

AUDREY DELCAMPO

What is the Presence of God to you? Maybe as you ponder this question, a word pops up—peace, stillness, security, calmness, wholeness, healing, hope, joy, love. Perhaps it is an experience you recall in vivid detail, one in which you can say, The Lord was in this place. Perhaps it's a faraway idea that makes you slightly uncomfortable—or, if you're truly honest, very uncomfortable—because it can be quite unpredictable. Whatever your thoughts are, I invite you to hear these words from Thomas Keating:

This Presence is so immense, yet so humble; awe-inspiring, yet so gentle; limitless, yet so intimate, tender, and personal. I know that I am known. Everything in my life is transparent in this Presence. It knows everything about me—all my weaknesses, brokenness, sinfulness—and still loves me infinitely. This Presence is healing, strengthening, refreshing—just by its Presence. It is like coming home to a place I should never have left, to an awareness that was somehow always there, but which I did not recognize.

Church, we're talking about the same Spirit that hovered over the waters in Genesis 1, the same presence that led the Israelites by a pillar of cloud and fire through the desert, the same cloud of glory that fell upon the people at the dedication of the tabernacle and the temple, the same tongues of fire that descended upon the 120 gathered in the Upper Room. This Presence has a name. He is a person. He is our King.

The very Presence of God—the same God who created the galaxies and holds the universe in the palm of His hand—delights in descending and dwelling among His creation. So immense, yet so personal. I must admit, growing up I had an intense fascination with the Presence of God. I didn't know what to feel. I remember thinking, Should I be scared? Should I be nervous? Because I kind of was. But at the same time, this feeling of being absolutely tiny in the light of the Almighty God who also calls me Daughter and Friend was breathtaking and beautiful—and I didn't ever want to leave.

And that's when it hit me—He never leaves. The Presence of God is not situational or circumstantial; it's not limited to a particular time, space, or location. He is all around us. What changes is our awareness of Him. He's always there; the question is, how aware are we of that promise on a regular basis? Truthfully, I am quite forgetful—but I'm working on it. May the cross remind us of the sacrifice that was made. May the resurrection stir gratitude for the gap that was closed. And may our response be surrender and obedience every day, until we see Him face to face.

Read: Psalm 63:1–3

Prayer: King Jesus, thank You for Your presence. Awaken my soul to behold Your fingerprints all around. May my soul thirst for You, always. Amen.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR - AUDREY DELCAMPO



Audrey Del Campo is an ordained Pastor through ECO and currently serving in Brazil. She is a preacher, worship leader, songwriter and author of, "Wind and Waves." She's had the privilege of ministering in churches across North and South America, Africa and Southeast Asia, and has a heart for the Global Church. She hopes to inspire, encourage, and equip believers to remain steadfast through the storm by locking eyes with Jesus and learning to think outwardly and globally in their mission.

Tell the Coming Generation

REV. JAMIE SWOPE

Psalm 78:1-8

"You live in Frederick now?!" After posting a picture with a tagged location on my socials, I got an unexpected message from Connie, an elderly woman who, along with her husband Vern, helped disciple me as a new, 12-year-old believer in Southern California where we went to church together. What was her interest in Maryland? Connie had been messaging with her great-granddaughter Whitley who lived there, answering her questions about God and praying that God would help her find a faithful community, especially since church wasn't her parents' thing.

"Would you be interested in meeting Whitley?" Connie asked.

I thought surely this teenager would not be interested in meeting a stranger. Yet, after a video chat with her great-grandmother and me, Whitley agreed. Soon we began online Bible studies. It wasn't long before she prayed with me to receive Christ. She started coming to church, I got to know her family, and discipling her became one of the greatest joys of my life.

The psalmist reminds us of our divine call to "...tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done" (Ps. 78:4, ESV). Connie understood that call, obediently praying for her great-granddaughter and refusing to let distance be a barrier.

The irony of this connection was not lost on me. When I was Whitley's age, I also attended church without my parents. It was people like Connie and Vern who prayed for me and made sure I knew the goodness of God. Nearly 30 years later, God was calling me to disciple their great-granddaughter.

Scripture is clear: our faith is a legacy meant to be passed on so that "the next generation might know" the Lord, "arise and tell them to their children" (Ps. 78:6). Our call is summarized in three commands:

1. Know: Know the faithfulness and glorious deeds of God.
2. Arise: Stand up for that truth in our lives today.
3. Tell: Share so future generations can know and do the same.

May the Spirit reveal to you, in surprising and specific ways, who He wants you to prioritize pouring into through mentorship and prayer.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR - JAMIE SWOPE



Bio: Rev. Jamie Swope is the Associate Pastor at First & Calvary Presbyterian Church in Springfield, MO, where she lives with her awesome husband, Kevin, and their three children. She has previously served as a minister to children, youth, and families in the Maryland area. Her greatest passion is passing on a legacy of faith. This focus is currently driving her Doctor of Ministry project at Fuller Theological Seminary: equipping churches.

Under-Rowers with Chris

L A U R I H A U G E N

Mark 10:35–45 “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you... Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory” (Mk 10:35–37).

James and John wanted thrones, chairs with the power to rule, the best seats in the house. A more blatant, self-centered request would be hard to match, and yet Jesus kindly responds, “You don’t know what you’re asking. Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?” James and John chimed in that they could, but the cup and baptism they envisioned were the luxuries of a messianic banquet instead of the way of the cross.

When the other ten disciples heard about this incident, they were indignant with James and John, maybe not so much out of concern for Jesus but perhaps out of resentment for being upstaged. So, Jesus gathered all the disciples together for a lesson on his upside-down kingdom. “If you want to be great you must be a servant. If you want to be first you must be slave of all.” Jesus calls us to follow the road of self-sacrifice as we serve. “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me” (Lk 9:23). Great is the follower who serves like Jesus.

The Apostle Paul also taught an indulgent, self-exalting Corinthian church about the nature of true Christian service. In 1 Corinthians 4:1, Paul used a word-picture to describe a servant of Christ: ὑπηρέτης (hypēretēs), a nautical term for “under-rower.” The under-rowers labored on the lower deck of an ancient war-galley. They had to listen to the cadence set out by their superiors and row in sync with one another to propel the ship forward. All the glory for staying on course and completing their voyage went to the captain. As servants of Christ, we are under-rowers—members of His crew—working below deck, not above. We listen to Christ, our Captain, who sets the course and cadence of our days.

In rowing there is a term called “swing.” Swing is the magical moment when every rower in the boat is perfectly in sync—their strokes match so smoothly that the boat seems to glide almost effortlessly. In the movie *The Boys in the Boat*, based off Daniel James Brown’s best seller, the team’s boat maker explains that when a crew finds “swing” it turns rowing into poetry. “Swing” also turns serving into joy. Great are the followers who serve like Jesus, together!

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help me to listen to your voice and faithfully serve with humility. Teach me, today, that true greatness is found in self-giving love—just as “the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and give his life as a ransom for many.” In Jesus’ name, Amen.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR - LAURI HAUGEN



Asst. Pastor of Families, El Montecito Presbyterian Church, Santa Barbara, CA
 For more than 30 years, I’ve had the joy of walking with children, teens, and college students on their faith journeys—as a teacher, youth pastor, family pastor, and an adjunct lecturer at Gordon College. I earned my M.Div. from Gordon-Conwell and have served in churches from Seattle to Atlanta, Boston’s North Shore, Santa Barbara, and even Zürich, Switzerland. These days, I get to serve alongside my husband, Tom (also an ECO pastor!), and our three awesome kids—Melia, Annika, and Jocelyn—who keep life fun.

When I Chose Not to Listen

C A R I D R E E S M A N N

"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

I have only heard the audible voice of God once. It was on September 7, 2001 and I was in the Chicago Midway airport halfway to my destination in Philadelphia. The airport was crowded because there was a storm and we moved slowly through the terminal. I just got off the plane from San Francisco and was on my way to my gate when I heard a crystal clear, audible voice say, "Go home." I turned around and was sure there was a man talking to me, but there was no one there, so I shook it off and continued towards my gate. A few minutes later I heard the same voice again say, "Go home." This time it was not as crowded and so I turned around and when no one was there I shook my head and thought I was going crazy and was hearing voices. I went into a bathroom stall and started talking to God in my head, "God, is that you talking to me? What do you mean go home? I can't go home. There is nothing left there for me there! I left my job, my living arrangement. My friends have all moved away. Nate and I broke up and I would be a failure if I went home!" When I left the stall, I knew without a doubt that I was supposed to turn around and go home. I was confused because I was going to Philly to serve God and he wanted me just leave. Instead, I ignored God's call to go home, I chose to be like Jonah and I ignored God's voice and I moved into a rowhouse in Southwest Philadelphia with five strangers. We all had the same goal of doing inner-city ministry alongside a church in the neighborhood for a year.

Three days later, on a beautiful, crystal clear day my housemates and I huddled around a television at a thrift shop watching the events that would change our world. This was the beginning of one of the darkest years of my life. Over the next nine months I witnessed the darkness of poverty, experienced inner-city violence, and 9/11 was a backdrop of grief for everyone. I chose to be disobedient to his voice and because of that, I have had to deal with the consequences of brokenness. However, I have also experienced God's purposeful grace.

When I read God's word, I am repeatedly reminded that many of the people in God's word, were disobedient or chose a path that led to sin, yet God continually espouses his immeasurable love and grace and continues to invite us to be a part of his story. I learned that just because the work might be good, does not always mean we are called to be the one to do it. He uses our mistakes and our sin and brings us in and still uses us and redeems us. I know I am redeemed for not listening to God when he told me to go home, but God has still had me walk through the pain of not listening to him and I often wonder what my story would have been if I had been obedient to his call, but as I look towards the joy of Easter morning, I can be confident that I am loved, redeemed, and invited into his story because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. I urge each one of us to listen to his voice, be obedient to his call, and be a part of his great story.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR - CARI DREESMANN



My name is Cari Dreesmann. I am married to my husband, Nate Dreesmann and we have four children, Gabrielle, Jackson, Charis and Elise. I love Jesus, my family, good coffee, reading, crafting, and watching our youngest daughter play softball. I work at a Title 1 elementary school and every day is an adventure.. I love to spend time with my family around the table, having deep conversations, while eating good food that my husband cooks.