

The Bible in a Year

After finishing the book of Judges we read the short love story of Ruth, set in the time of the judges, to hint at the loyalty of God who will eventually rescue his people, through their kinsman-redeemer, Jesus. Then we examine the warts-and-all records of the rule of the Kings, recorded in 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings. These accounts begin with the prophet Samuel who acts as a messenger and advocate between God and the people. He appoints Saul as the first King of Israel but although Saul appeared to have all the qualifications the people wanted, he failed to lead successfully. He was replaced by David, regarded as Israel's greatest king. But David got involved in adultery and murder and subsequent sexual abuse and family splits left him broken. His son Solomon took over and had the first temple built in Jerusalem but pride and religious compromise marked his reign and the nation descended into moral chaos and civil war, leaving two nations - Judah in the south and Israel in the north - with a succession of kings, most of whom abandoned the Covenant and the worship of God and allowed violence and injustice to hold sway. No longer relying on God for protection, first Israel and later Judah fell to more powerful empires—Assyria and Babylon—and eventually most of the people are carried off to exile in Babylon.

Finally we look at the writings of some of the prophets: Isaiah, Joel, Amos and Obadiah. They warned the two nations of the consequences of their apostasy and called the people to return to God, giving hope to those who do.

Suggestions

Reading the Bible is not a religious exercise undertaken to impress God. It is an opportunity to explore the way God gradually unfolded his rescue plan for the whole human race through the history of the Hebrew tribes, culminating in the appearance of Jesus—God become human—who lived the perfect life, then took upon himself the consequences of our sin when he was crucified, and finally inaugurated a new creation through his resurrection, inviting us to join him in this new restored humanity.

If God had all this recorded and preserved as a library of sacred writings—the Bible—surely the least we can do is try to read it. We can pray for the Holy Spirit's help, make use of modern translations, audio recordings and videos, and encourage one another by talking through what we discover.

www.thebibleproject.com not only provides short videos on each book of the Bible but also has a "How to read the Bible" series to help us make sense of what we are reading. Bible study has never been easier!

May / June
2019

Framlingham Community Baptist Church

Bible in a Year Project

- > Judges, Ruth,
- > 1 & 2 Samuel
- > 1 & 2 Kings
- > Isaiah
- > Hosea, Joel
- > Amos
- > Obadiah

We continue our Bible in a Year plan, each day reading a few chapters, praying over a Psalm, and watching occasional videos from www.thebibleproject.com. The plan for May and June is set out in the centre pages.

So far we have read three of the Gospels - Luke, then Matthew and Mark, and we have traced the history of God's unfolding plan from Creation and the rebellion of mankind through the emerging story of God's chosen people—the Hebrew tribes—chosen to be an example to all nations. Descended from Abraham, they found themselves enslaved by Egypt and then rescued by God and returned to the land originally promised to Abraham. God promised them protection and gave them rules to live by. But as they began

to settle the territory, led by "judges" or tribal chieftains, they abandoned the partnership or "Covenant" made with God and descended into a time of moral and religious corruption marked by cruelty and injustice. This pattern was repeated when the people decided they wanted to be like surrounding nations and be ruled by kings. God warned them that this would not bring the benefits they hoped for and pointed out that a royal family, royal palaces and royal protection forces would mean higher taxes! But God provided what they wanted and some kings like David and Solomon were successful, despite their well-documented flaws, but most were corrupt and rejected God's covenant. *(continued on back page)*

May 2019		Reading	Psalm	Bible Project Video	Note
Wed	1	Judges 9-12	119: 65-96		
Thu	2	Judges 13-15	119: 97-128		
Fri	3	Judges 16-18	119: 129-152		
Sat	4	Judges 19-21	119: 153-176		
Sun	5	Ruth	120	Ruth	In Old T Read Scripture Series
Mon	6	1 Samuel 1-3	121	1 Samuel	In Old T Read Scripture Series
Tue	7	1 Samuel 4-8	122		
Wed	8	1 Samuel 9-12	123		
Thu	9	1 Samuel 13-14	124		
Fri	10	1 Samuel 15-17	125		
Sat	11	1 Samuel 18-20	126		
Sun	12	1 Samuel 21-24	127		
Mon	13	1 Samuel 25-27	128		
Tue	14	1 Samuel 28-31	129		
Wed	15	2 Samuel 1-3	130	2 Samuel	In Old T Read Scripture Series
Thu	16	2 Samuel 4-8	131	The Messiah	In Themes series
Fri	17	2 Samuel 9-12	132		
Sat	18	2 Samuel 13-15	133		
Sun	19	2 Samuel 16-18	134		
Mon	20	2 Samuel 19-21	135		
Tues	21	2 Samuel 22-24	136		
Wed	22	1 Kings 1-3	137	1 and 2 Kings	In Old T Read Scripture Series
Thu	23	1 Kings 4-7	138		
Fri	24	1 Kings 8-10	139		
Sat	25	1 Kings 11-13	140		
Sun	26	1 Kings 14-16	141		
Mon	27	1 Kings 17-19	142		
Tue	28	1 Kings 20-22	143		
Wed	29	2 Kings 1-3	144		
Thu	30	2 Kings 4-7	145		
Fri	31	2 Kings 8-11	146		

June 2019		Reading	Psalm	Bible Project Video	Note
Sat	1	2 Kings 12-14	147		
Sun	2	2 Kings 15-17	148		
Mon	3	2 Kings 18-19	149		
Tue	4	2 Kings 20-22	150		
Wed	5	2 Kings 23-25	1		
Thu	6	Isaiah 1-4	2	Isaiah 1-39	In Old T Read Scripture Series
Fri	7	Isaiah 5-8	3		
Sat	8	Isaiah 9-12	4		
Sun	9	Isaiah 13-17	5		
Mon	10	Isaiah 18-22	6		
Tue	11	Isaiah 23-27	7		
Wed	12	Isaiah 28-30	8		
Thu	13	Isaiah 31-35	9		
Fri	14	Isaiah 36-38	10		
Sat	15	Isaiah 39-41	11	Isaiah 40-66	In Old T Read Scripture Series
Sun	16	Isaiah 42-44	12	Gospel of Kingdom	In Themes series
Mon	17	Isaiah 45-48	13		
Tues	18	Isaiah 49-51	14		
Wed	19	Isaiah 52-54	15		
Thu	20	Isaiah 55-57	16		
Fri	21	Isaiah 58-60	17		
Sat	22	Isaiah 61-64	18		
Sun	23	Isaiah 65-66	19		
Mon	24	Hosea 1-5	20	Hosea	In Old T Read Scripture Series
Tue	25	Hosea 6-10	21		
Wed	26	Hosea 11-14	22		
Thu	27	Joel	23	Joel	In Old T Read Scripture Series
Fri	28	Amos 1-5	24	Amos	In Old T Read Scripture Series
Sat	29	Amos 6-9	25		
Sun	30	Obadiah	26	Obadiah	In Old T Read Scripture Series