

The Bible in a Year

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In 586 BC a pivotal event in the history of the Jews occurred. As related in the final chapter of 2 Kings, the nation of Judah was defeated by agents of King Nebuchadnezzar, Jerusalem was destroyed, worship in Solomon's temple ceased and much of the population was exiled to work in Babylon.

The book of Jeremiah was written during this period of turmoil when Nebuchadnezzar's empire was expanding and the tiny territory of Judah was caught up in conflict between Babylon and Egypt and kept changing sides. Jeremiah, along with Zephaniah, Obadiah and Habakkuk repeatedly warned the people of the consequences of abandoning God and giving allegiance to neighbouring powers and adopting their religions. When the Jews were finally exiled from the land God had promised them, Jeremiah's writings went with them as a reminder of the reason for their predicament.

The book of Lamentations contains a series of laments over the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BC and was probably written by Jeremiah who was an eye-witness of the event.

This is followed by the writings of the prophet Ezekiel who had been part of a group exiled to Babylon just before the fall of Jerusalem. His writings cover a period from 7 years before the exile to 15 years after. We start this book at the end of August and will continue during September.

Suggestions

Unexpected events or duties which disrupt our plans each day can easily put us behind with our schedule of reading the Bible in a year. There's no point in beating ourselves up and no value in giving up. Maybe setting aside some extra time to catch up will work, or perhaps we need to miss out a book or two and make a note to read them next year.

Especially useful when we get behind are the audio recordings of Bible readings available on-line or on CD. We can listen to them while driving or working on something else. Where there's a will, there's a way!

The videos from thebibleproject.com videos are also very helpful and can give an overview of the main themes of a book even if you don't have time to read the book yourself at that point. It's certainly worth looking at the "Exile" and "The way of the Exile" videos in the Bible Theme series as they provide a context for the books of Jeremiah, Lamentations and Ezekiel and explain how this event in the history of the Jews relates to us all today.

The Bible in a Year Project

July / August
2019

- > **Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah.**
- > **The Gospel of John.**
- > **Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs.**
- > **Jeremiah, Lamentations.**

Framlingham
Community
Baptist
Church

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 July and August is set out in the centre pages.

We continue to read the books of the Old Testament prophets—Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk and Zephaniah who relayed God's message to the nations of Judah and Israel before they were conquered and exiled by the Babylonians.

Next we look at the Gospel written by the Apostle John. This differs markedly from the Gospels written by Matthew, Mark and Luke, which we read earlier in the year. They were based on the recollections of people who had been with Jesus (such as Peter and Mary) but John's gospel is written by Jesus's closest friend

and includes some key events and teachings not found in the other gospels.

July continues with a return to the Old Testament to look at the Wisdom Literature of the Jewish people. Job could well be the oldest book in the Bible and deals with the question of why the innocent may suffer as well as the wicked. This balances the book of Proverbs which collects the proverbs of Solomon and other writers who record the benefits of wise attitudes and actions. The book of Ecclesiastes, possibly written by King Solomon, describes the meaningless of life lived without reference to God. This is followed by the Song of Songs, love poems in the voice of a woman, celebrating love, the greatest gift from God to mankind, and a reflection God's love for mankind.

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July 2019		Reading	Psalm	Bible Project Video	Note
Mon	1	Jonah 1-4	27	Jonah	In Old Testament series
Tue	2	Micah 1-4	28	Micah	In Old Testament series
Wed	3	Micah 5-7	29	Justice	In Theme series
Thu	4	Nahum 1-3	30	Nahum	In Old Testament series
Fri	5	Habakkuk 1-3	31	Habakkuk	In Old Testament series
Sat	6	Zephaniah 1-3	32	Zephaniah	In Old Testament series
Sun	7	John 1-2	33	John 1-12 (Part 1)	In New Testament series
Mon	8	John 3-4	34		
Tue	9	John 5-6	35		
Wed	10	John 7-8	36		
Thu	11	John 9-10	37		
Fri	12	John 11-12	38		
Sat	13	John 13-15	39	John 13-21 (Part 2)	In New Testament series
Sun	14	John 16-18	40		
Mon	15	John 19-21	41		
Tues	16	Job 1-3	42	Job	In Old Testament series
Wed	17	Job 4-7	43	Job	In Wisdom series
Thu	18	Job 8-11	44		
Fri	19	Job 12-15	45		
Sat	20	Job 16-19	46		
Sun	21	Job 20-23	47		
Mon	22	Job 24-28	48		
Tue	23	Job 29-31	49		
Wed	24	Job 31-34	50		
Thu	25	Job 35-37	51		
Fri	26	Job 38-39	52		
Sat	27	Job 40-42	53		
Sun	28	Proverbs 1-3	54	Proverbs	In Old Testament series
Mon	29	Proverbs 4-6	55	Proverbs	In Wisdom series
Tue	30	Proverbs 7-9	56		
Wed	31	Proverbs 10-12	57		

Aug 2019		Reading	Psalm	Bible Project Video	Note
Thu	1	Proverbs 13-15	58		
Fri	2	Proverbs 16-18	59		
Sat	3	Proverbs 19-21	60		
Sun	4	Proverbs 22-24	61		
Mon	5	Proverbs 25-27	62		
Tue	6	Proverbs 28-31	63		
Wed	7	Ecclesiastes 1-4	64	Ecclesiastes	In Old Testament series
Thu	8	Ecclesiastes 5-8	65	Ecclesiastes	In Wisdom series
Fri	9	Ecclesiast. 9-12	66		
Sat	10	Song of Songs 1-4	67	Song of Songs	In Old Testament series
Sun	11	Song of Songs 5-8	68		
Mon	12	Jeremiah 1-3	69	Jeremiah	In Old Testament series
Tues	13	Jeremiah 4-6	70		
Wed	14	Jeremiah 7-9	71		
Thu	15	Jer. 10-13	72		
Fri	16	Jer. 14-17	73		
Sat	17	Jer. 18-22	74		
Sun	18	Jer. 23-25	75		
Mon	19	Jer. 26-29	76	The Way of the Exile	In Theme series
Tue	20	Jer. 30-32	77		
Wed	21	Jer. 33-36	78		
Thu	22	Jer. 37-39	79		
Fri	23	Jer. 40-44	80		
Sat	24	Jer. 45-48	81		
Sun	25	Jer. 49-50	82		
Mon	26	Jer. 51-52	83		
Tue	27	Lamentations 1-2	84	Lamentations	In Old T. read Scripture series
Wed	28	Lamentations 3	85		
Thu	29	Lamentations 4-5	86		
Fri	30	Ezekiel 1-4	87	Ezekiel 1-32	In Old T. read Scripture series