

The Bible in a Year

This brings us to the end of the Old Testament—but not quite. In the Hebrew scriptures, the last book is the Book of Chronicles (which Christians subsequently divided into 1 and 2 Chronicles). 1 Chronicles is a summary of the early history of the Jews—starting with a ten-chapter genealogy of the notables of Israel (which we are advised to speed-read in one day!) then picks up the history of the Kings from Saul to Solomon, majoring on David. 2 Chronicles continues the summary of the remaining kings, which covered a period of continued decline when most of them (with a few exceptions like Hezekiah) abandoned the worship of God and repeatedly broke his covenant. The last chapter tells how despite God’s continuing compassion and patience, the people persisted in ignoring or ridiculing God’s messengers “until there was no more remedy” and God allowed the exile to Babylon. Even then, God did not give up on his people. The chapter ends with the return to the promised land, but God had to use a foreign Emperor to do his work!

Thus ends the Old Testament. But God is going to do what the prophets predicted and the “Sent One” or “Messiah” would come to Israel, now occupied by the Romans, 500 years later. He will establish a “New Covenant” or “New Testament”, but in a most unexpected way. Matthew begins the “New Testament” writings with his account of the Messiah—Jesus of Nazareth. Matthew, a Jew hated by many for collaborating with the enemy, became a disciple of Jesus and went on to show us how Jesus is God’s ultimate answer.

Suggestions

It’s been a long hard slog but we finish the Old Testament soon. We’ve already looked at the Gospel of John but towards the end of October we turn to the other Gospels that introduce the “New Testament” or new agreement—that faith in Jesus, who is both God and Man, is God’s means of rescuing his world from our persistent failure to keep the “Old Covenant”.

Many of us have struggled to maintain this reading schedule but something is better than nothing so perhaps we can pick up again as we progress into the New Testament. You can catch up with John in one sitting by using a CD or DVD of John’s Gospel (borrow either from Pete) and try to keep up your reading from now on.

Don’t forget the on-line videos on each book of the Bible, and some of its themes, created by The Bible Project. They provide short summaries of what you didn’t read as well as clear explanations of what you did. They are a great encouragement to return to the Bible itself. Be encouraged!

Framlingham
Community
Baptist
Church

Sept/Oct
2019

The Bible in a Year Project

> Ezekiel, Ezra, Nehemiah,
> Esther, Daniel,
> Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
> 1 and 2 Chronicles,
> Matthew.

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 September and October is set out in the centre pages.

As we start September we pick up the writings of the prophet Ezekiel who had been part of a group exiled to Babylon just before the fall of Jerusalem. His work covers a period from 7 years before the exile to 15 years after. Then Ezra and Nehemiah cover life in exile under the Babylonians, the return of the Jewish people to the promised land and the rebuilding of the temple courtesy of the Persians.

The story of Esther relates how a Jewish girl became queen of Persia and saved her people from genocide. So perhaps it is set in the time just before Jews

returned to Judah and Israel, to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem, although it was probably written much later.

The post-exile period is covered by the prophets Daniel, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi. Daniel lived in Babylon during the exile and his book relates some events pertaining to that period and records some far-reaching prophesies. Haggai and Zechariah wrote to encourage the returned exiles in their endeavour to rebuild the temple and live under covenant rule, loyal to God. Zechariah also points forward to the coming of John the Baptist and Jesus when God will establish the Kingdom of God in the land. Malachi, writing some time later, picks up this theme and encourages the people to remain faithful even though they could see no immediate evidence of God in action.

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Sept 2019		Reading	Psalm	Bible Project Video	Note
Sun	1	Ezekiel 5-8	88	Exile	In Bible Themes section
Mon	2	Ezekiel 9-12	89		
Tue	3	Ezekiel 13-15	90		
Wed	4	Ezekiel 16-18	91		
Thu	5	Ezekiel 19-21	92		
Fri	6	Ezekiel 22-24	93		
Sat	7	Ezekiel 25-27	94		
Sun	8	Ezekiel 28-30	95		
Mon	9	Ezekiel 31-33	96	Ezekiel 33-48	Read Scripture series
Tues	10	Ezekiel 34-36	97		
Wed	11	Ezekiel 37-39	98		
Thu	12	Ezekiel 40-44	99		
Fri	13	Ezekiel 45-48	100		
Sat	14	Ezra 1-3	101	Ezra-Nehemiah	Read Scripture series
Sun	15	Ezra 4-7	102		
Mon	16	Ezra 8-10	103		
Tue	17	Nehemiah 1-3	104		
Wed	18	Nehemiah 4-6	105		
Thu	19	Nehemiah 7-9	106		
Fri	20	Neh 10-11	107		
Sat	21	Neh 12-13	108		
Sun	22	Esther 1-5	109	Esther	Read Scripture series
Mon	23	Esther 6-10	110		
Tue	24	Daniel 1-3	111	Daniel	Read Scripture series
Wed	25	Daniel 4-6	112	The Way of Exile	In Bible Themes section
Thu	26	Daniel 7-9	113	Son of Man	In Bible Themes section
Fri	27	Daniel 10-12	114		
Sat	28	Haggai	115	Haggai	Read Scripture series
Sun	29	Zechariah 1-4	116	Zechariah	Read Scripture series
Mon	30	Zechariah 5-8	117		

Oct 2019		Reading	Psalm	Bible Project Video	Note
Tue	1	Zechariah 9-14	118		
Wed	2	Malachi 1-2	119: 1-32	Malachi	Read Scripture series
Thu	3	Malachi 3-4	119: 33-64		
Fri	4	1 Chronicles 1-10	119: 65-96	1-2 Chronicles	Read Scripture series
Sat	5	1 Chron 11-14	119: 97-128		
Sun	6	1 Chron 15-17	119: 129-152		
Mon	7	1 Chron 18-21	119: 153-176		
Tues	8	1 Chron 22-24	120		
Wed	9	1 Chron 25-28	121		
Thu	10	2 Chron 1-4	122		
Fri	11	2 Chron 5-8	123		
Sat	12	2 Chron 9-12	124		
Sun	13	2 Chron 13-17	125		
Mon	14	2 Chron 18-20	126		
Tue	15	2 Chron 21-24	127		
Wed	16	2 Chron 25-27	128		
Thu	17	2 Chron 28-31	129		
Fri	18	2 Chron 32-34	130		
Sat	19	2 Chron 35-36	131		
Sun	20	Matthew 1-2	132	Matthew 1-13	Read Scripture series
Mon	21	Matthew 3-4	133		
Tue	22	Matthew 5-6	134		
Wed	23	Matthew 7-8	135		
Thu	24	Mathew 9-10	136		
Fri	25	Matthew 11-12	137		
Sat	26	Matthew 13-14	138	Matthew 14-28	Read Scripture series
Sun	27	Matthew 15-16	139		
Mon	28	Matthew 17-18	140		
Tue	29	Matthew 19-20	141		
Wed	30	Matthew 21-22	142	Shema series	In Bible Word series
Thu	31	Matthew 23-24	143		