

One Year Bible – Week 51

Summary: Revelation Reading

There are many perspectives on the book of Revelation among Christian scholarship. Historically the book of Revelation is attributed to the apostle John while in exile on the island of Patmos. Most scholars would place the setting during A.D. 90's during the intense persecution of Christians under the Roman rule Domitian. John writes to encourage 7 churches in Asia Minor to endure persecution and be assured of God's ultimate victory.

One suggestion for the structure of the book of Revelation points to Rev 1:19 as an account of past, present, and future – chapter 1 = past, Chapters 2-5 = present, Chapters 6-22 = future.

Summary: Old Testament Reading

Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament. It is an oracle against a single nation – Edom, and shows God's sovereign hand above the hardships his people endure.

Jonah is a narrative about the prophet Jonah and God's mission for him to Nineveh – a great Assyrian city. In this book we learn about God's willingness to forgive, submission to God through Jonah's struggle, and the possibility of unexpected repentance through Nineveh.

Micah was a contemporary of Isaiah and Hosea. His message to Jerusalem and Judah was for God's people to turn from their sin to avoid disaster. Micah's message was successful according to Jer 26:18-19, 2Ki 18-19, & Is 36-37.

Nahum is a series of oracles against Assyria, specifically its capital Nineveh (after Jonah). Nahum gives assurance of salvation to Judah.

Habakkuk was written during the time of the Babylonians after the fall of Assyria. The key themes in the book are Justice and righteousness.

Zephaniah preached against the evil practices of King Manasseh (one of Judah's worst kings) during the early reign of King Josiah (Judah's best king). This book contrasts broken human kingship with God's perfect rule.

Things to Look for and Questions to Ponder as You Read:

- *OT* – Jonah was bitter toward Nineveh yet God chose to use him as his messenger to call them to repent. When Nineveh did repent, Jonah was upset. In Jonah 4:1-4, Jonah complains in prayer about God being

compassionate to Nineveh. Notice how many times Jonah says “I” and “me” in his prayer. Jonah is arguing with God but notice where his focus is – it is on himself. When we find ourselves arguing with God we should check ourselves because very likely our focus is too much on us. – *Dec 14*

Small Group Questions:

- 1) *NT* – Habakkuk 2:4 says “the righteous will live by his faith (or *faithfulness*). Several passages in the New Testament refer to this verse. Read each of the following verses and their surrounding context and answer the following questions: Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38-39. Who are the righteous? What is meant by “faith” (or *faithfulness*)? By whose faith do the righteous live? How is life lived by this faith? In your own words summarize what is meant by this phrase in each of the verses looked at. – *Dec 18*
- 2) *OT* – Read Hab 3:16-19. Describe the circumstances that the author describes in these verses. Explain what you think the author is saying in verse 19. How accurately would you say these verses describe your journey as a Christian? How can we encourage one another toward living with this perspective? – *Dec 18*

Journal the Psalms this week:

Read Psalm 138:7-8. “Though I walk in the midst of trouble...” As you read these verses keep in mind that the Psalmist is not writing from a place of comfort and ease but one of “trouble.” What does the Psalmist declare in the midst of this trouble? What request does the Psalmist make? Journal about the last time you were in a place of trouble. How did God act? How did you pray during that time? What do these verses show you about trouble and God? – *Dec 19*

Reading Schedule:

Ob = Obadiah / Jnh = Jonah / Mic = Micah / Na = Nahum / Hab = Habakkuk / Zep = Zephaniah / Rev = Revelation / Ps = Psalms / Pr = Proverbs



Dec 13 – Ob 1:1-21 / Rev 4:1-11 / Ps 132:1-18 / Pr 29:24-25
Dec 14 – Jnh 1:1-4:11 / Rev 5:1-14 / Ps 133:1-3 / Pr 29:26-27
Dec 15 – Mic 1:1-4:13 / Rev 6:1-17 / Ps 134:1-3 / Pr 30:1-4
Dec 16 – Mic 5:1-7:20 / Rev 7:1-17 / Ps 135:1-21 / Pr 30:5-6
Dec 17 – Na 1:1-3:19 / Rev 8:1-13 / Ps 136:1-26 / Pr 30:7-9
Dec 18 – Hab 1:1-3:19 / Rev 9:1-21 / Ps 137:1-9 / Pr 30:10
Dec 19 – Zep 1:1-3:20 / Rev 10:1-11 / Ps 138:1-8 / Pr 30:11-14