

## One Year Bible – Week 52

### **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: Haggai and Zechariah Reading**

*Haggai* is written to the people of Judah in exile under the Persian king Darius (Some time after being taken over and exiled by the Babylonians). Haggai criticized the attitude of those sent to rebuild the temple of Jerusalem. Haggai was a contemporary of Ezra of Zechariah and should be read in conjunction with the events of Ezra 1-6.

*Zechariah* is closely linked with Haggai in time setting, post-exilic, written during the reign of the Persian king Darius I. Zechariah looks back upon the judgment of the exile. It is divided into two main sections: Chapters 1-8 containing eight visions – the visions in Zechariah are a review of the promises of God that have been fulfilled. Chapters 9-14 talk of the promises of salvation and God's final victory.

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

- *NT* – In some ways the book of Revelation can be difficult to understand and consequently difficult to discern how it applies to us. Though there may be some complexity to understanding the content of the book of Revelation, a careful reading shows us significant awareness toward what God is saying. Revelation 13:5-10 speaks of a time of tribulation for believers as the whole world will worship “the beast.” Yet believers are called to have “patient endurance and faithfulness.” The same is said in Rev 14:12. Whatever this time of tribulation is, we can be sure that God desires us to endure with patience and faithfulness until the time when he intervenes. – Dec 22

### **Small Group Questions:**

- 1) *OT* – Read Haggai chapter 1. What problem(s) is Haggai introducing in this chapter? What is the reason for the problem(s)? Read also Hag 2:15-19. What light do these verses shed on answers to these questions? Why do you think the people respond the way they did in Hag 1:12? Why do you think God responded the way he did in verses 13-14? In what ways, if any, does this situation relate to your relationship with God? – Dec 20
- 2) *NT* – Revelation chapter 12 recounts the story of Jesus' birth from the heavenly perspective. Who are the significant characters in this story and what role does each play? How are the woman and child taken care of? Why was the dragon defeated and by contrast, why were the angels victorious against the dragon (see especially verse 11)? What do you see as significant about this heavenly battle? Explain verse 12 in your own words. Explain verse 17 in your own words. How do these affect the way we view our lives as Christians? – Dec 18

### **Journal the Psalms this week:**

Read Psalm 139. What is David asking of God in this Psalm? What do you think he means by the words “search me,” and “know me?” What is David telling God or acknowledging in this Psalm? What does this Psalm tell you about the way God knows us? How does this make you feel? What is important about God knowing us to the extent that David writes here? How does the depth of God's knowledge of us affect the way you live in relationship with him? Journal your answers and ask God to “search you” and to “know you” as David did. – Dec 20

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### **Reading Schedule:**

Hag = Haggai / Zec = Zechariah / Rev = Revelation / Ps = Psalms / Pr = Proverbs



Dec 20 – Hag 1:1-2:23 / Rev 11:1-19 / Ps 139:1-24 / Pr 30:15-16  
Dec 21 – Zec 1:1-21 / Rev 12:1-13:1a / Ps 140:1-13 / Pr 30:17  
Dec 22 – Zec 2:1-3:10 / Rev 13:1b-18 / Ps 141:1-10 / Pr 30:18-20  
Dec 23 – Zec 4:1-5:11 / Rev 14:1-20 / Ps 142:1-7 / Pr 30:21-23  
Dec 24 – Zec 6:1-7:14 / Rev 15:1-8 / Ps 143:1-12 / Pr 30:24-28  
Dec 25 – Zec 8:1-23 / Rev 16:1-21 / Ps 144:1-15 / Pr 30:29-31  
Dec 26 – Zec 9:1-17 / Rev 17:1-18 / Ps 145:1-21 / Pr 30:32