

One Year Bible – Week 53

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.

Summary: Zechariah and Malachi Reading

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 which 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.

Malachi is written in the Persian period after the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem. The book is structured as several disputations between God and his people.

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

- *NT* – Among theologians there are a handful of differing perspectives about how Christ's return will happen. Don't let uncertainty in this manner detract from your confidence of God's Word. Rather take confidence in one of the most significant certainties of the book of Revelation – Christ is coming back! We may not know all the details of how or when, but we do know he is, and his coming will be glorious!
- *OT* – Among the possibilities whom people were trying to identify Jesus with was Elijah. The prophecy of the return of Elijah is found here in *Malachi* 4:5.

Small Group Questions:

- 1) *OT* – Read Proverbs 31. This passage is a hallmark for many who are contemplating marriage. It serves as a description both of how an ideal wife would be as well as what a potential husband would

do well to look for in a future spouse. Though this passage is specifically written about the woman, much of the character principles can apply to both husband and wife. Are there any descriptions in this chapter that are challenging for you to understand, accept, or apply? Are there any descriptions that strike you as being particularly significant among this list? If you were to summarize this chapter into a single character trait what would it be? What purpose do you think this chapter serves in Scripture? – *Dec 28-31*

- 2) *NT* – Read Revelation 20:11-21:5. Who will be judged and who will dwell in the Holy City? What are the descriptions given of the Holy City? What words would you use to characterize the Holy City? What reaction or emotion do you think these words were intended to elicit from its readers? Why? What can we be sure of after having read this passage? – *Dec 29*
- 3) *OT* – Read *Malachi* 3:6-12. What point is being made in verses 6-7? How is returning related to robbing in verses 7-9? What point is being made in verse 10? What is God saying by the words "test me" in verse 10? How does verse 10 relate to the surrounding context? What could you do to live more consistently with the appeal made in verse 10?

Journal the Psalms this week:

Read Psalm 147:11. What do you think the Psalmist is getting at with this verse? What is he talking about within the context? Would your picture of the Christian life be lived out in complete consistency with this verse on a regular basis? Journal your responses, and your prayer to live in the fear of the Lord and commitment to put your hope in his unfailing love. – *Dec 28*

Reading Schedule:

Zec = Zechariah / Mal = Malachi / Rev = Revelation / Ps = Psalms /
Pr = Proverbs



Dec 27 – Zec 10:1-11:17 / Rev 18:1-24 / Ps 146:1-10 / Pr 30:33
Dec 28 – Zec 12:1-13:9 / Rev 19:1-21 / Ps 147:1-20 / Pr 31:1-7
Dec 29 – Zec 14:1-21 / Rev 20:1-15 / Ps 148:1-14 / Pr 31:8-9
Dec 30 – Mal 1:1-2:17 / Rev 21:1-27 / Ps 149:1-9 / Pr 31:10-24
Dec 31 – Mal 3:1-4:6 / Rev 22:1-21 / Ps 150:1-6 / Pr 31:25-31