

THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

11/19 – Ezek 20-21, Jas 1
11/20 – Ezek 22-23, Jas 2
11/21 – Ezek 24-26, Jas 3
11/22 – Ezek 27-28, Jas 4

11/23 – Ezek 29-31, Jas 5
11/24 – Ezek 32-33, 1 Pet 1
11/25 – Ezek 34-35, 1 Pet 2
11/26 – Ezek 36-37, 1 Pet 3

** Summaries/outlines from The Holy Bible, Contemporary English Version, ©1995 by the American Bible Society.

EZEKIEL

OUTLINE

- I. Ezekiel Sees the Lord's Glory and is Chosen to be His Prophet (1:1-3:27)
- II. Ezekiel Acts Out the Coming Destruction of Judah and Jerusalem (4:1-5:17)
- III. Disaster is Near (6:1-7:27)
- IV. The Lord's Glory Leaves Sinful Jerusalem (8:1-11:25)
- V. Messages of Doom for Judah and Jerusalem (12:1-24:27)
- VI. Judgment on Foreign Nations (25:1-32:32)
- VII. Ezekiel Must Warn the People to Turn from Their Sinful Ways (33:1-20)
- VIII. The News of Jerusalem's Fall (33:21-22)
- IX. The Lord Promises to Bring the People Home and to Restore Judah (34:1-37:28)
- X. Gog Will be Defeated and Israel Will be Restored (38:1-39:29)
- XI. Ezekiel Sees the Future Temple in Jerusalem (40:1-46:24)
- XII. The Stream Flowing from the Temple (47:1-12)
- XIII. The Borders of the Restored Land and Its Division Among the Tribes (47:13-48:35)

BIBLE BLURB (from @biblesummary)

Ezk20: "I led Israel out of Egypt. They did not walk in my law. I withheld my hand for my name's sake. You will know that I am the LORD."

Ezk21: "Son of man, prophesy against Israel. A sword is sharpened! Mark the way for the king of Babylon. A ruin, ruin, ruin I will make it."

Ezk22: "A city that sheds blood. In you they oppress orphans and widows. Israel has become dross to me. I will pour out my wrath upon them."

Ezk23: "Two sisters: Samaria and Jerusalem. Oholah lusted after her lovers. Oholibah was worse in whoring. Bring an army and cut them down."

Ezk24: "Put meat into the pot. Woe to the bloody city!" My wife died. The LORD said: "I will profane my sanctuary. Ezekiel will be a sign."

Ezk25: "To the Ammonites: You jeered at Israel so I will destroy you. I will judge Moab. I will lay vengeance upon Edom and Philistia."

Ezk26: "Tyre jeered at Jerusalem so I will make her a bare rock. Nebuchadnezzar will lay siege to you. I will bring you to a dreadful end."

Ezk27: "Lament for Tyre: Of oaks they made your oars. Tarshish, Dedan, Judah and Damascus traded with you. Now you are wrecked by the seas."

Ezk28: "To the king of Tyre: You were perfect in Eden. You became proud. I cast you to the ground. There will be no more thorns for Israel."

Ezk29: "I am against you, Pharaoh, the great dragon. Egypt will never again rule the nations. Nebuchadnezzar will carry off its wealth."

Ezk30: "A sword will come upon Egypt. Those who support her will fall. Nebuchadnezzar will destroy the land. I will break Pharaoh's arms."

Ezk31: "Assyria was a cedar. It towered above the trees. Its heart was proud. Foreigners have cut it down. This is Pharaoh and his hordes."

Ezk32: "Lament for Pharaoh: You are a dragon in the seas. The sword of Babylon will come upon you. Elam and Edom are laid with the slain."

Ezk33: "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for Israel." Jerusalem was struck down. The LORD says: "I have made the land a desolation."

Ezk34: "Woe to the shepherds of Israel! They did not feed my flock. I myself will seek my sheep. My servant David will be their shepherd."

Ezk35: "Son of man, prophesy against Mount Seir: Because you delivered Israel to the sword, blood will pursue you. You will be desolate."

Ezk36: "Prophecy to the mountains of Israel: I will make you inhabited again. I will vindicate my name. I will put my Spirit within you."
Ezk37: The LORD said: "Prophecy to the bones." The bones became an army. The LORD said: "Join two sticks. I will join Ephraim and Judah."

JAMES

This is a good example of a general letter, because it is addressed to Christians scattered throughout the Roman empire. Though written as a letter, it is more like a short book of instructions for daily living.

For James faith means action! In fact, the entire book is a series of examples that show faith in action in wise and practical ways.

His advice was clear and to the point: If you are poor, don't despair! Don't give up when your faith is being tested. Don't get angry quickly. Don't favor the rich over the poor. Do good things for others. Control your tongue and desires. Surrender to God and rely on his wisdom. Resist the devil. Don't brag about what you are going to do. If you are rich, use your money to help the poor. Be patient and kind, and pray for those who need God's help.

OUTLINE

- I. Greetings (1:1)
- II. A Life of Faith and Wisdom (1:2-18)
- III. Hearing and Obeying God's Message (1:19-27)
- IV. Don't Favor the Rich and Powerful (2:1-13)
- V. Faith and Works (2:14-26)
- VI. Wisdom and Words (3:1-18)
- VII. Warning Against Friendship with the World (4:1-5:6)
- VIII. Patience, Kindness, and Prayer (5:7-20)

BIBLE BLURB (from @biblesummary)

Jas1: James, to the tribes. Many trials produce perseverance. Riches will fade. Every good gift comes from the Father. Be doers of the word.

Jas2: If you show partiality to the rich you are committing sin. Act as those who are under the law of liberty. Faith without works is dead.

Jas3: No one can tame the tongue. With it we bless our Father and with it we curse others. The wisdom from above is pure and peace-loving.

Jas4: Your worldly desires cause conflict. Resist the devil, draw near to God. Who are you to judge your neighbour? You boast in arrogance.

Jas5: You rich have fattened yourselves for slaughter. Brothers, be patient until the Lord comes. The prayer of faith will save the sick.

1 PETER

In this letter Peter has much to say about suffering. He shows how it can be a way of serving the Lord, of sharing the faith, and of being tested. The letter was written to Christians scattered all over the northern part of Asia Minor. In this part of the Roman empire many Christians had already suffered unfair treatment from people who did not believe in Jesus. And they could expect to suffer even more.

Peter was quick to offer encouragement. His letter reminds the readers that some of the Lord's followers may have to go through times of hard testing. But this should make them glad, Peter declares, because it will strengthen their faith and bring them honor on the day when Jesus Christ returns.

Peter reminds them that Christ suffered here on earth, and when his followers suffer for doing right they are sharing his sufferings. In fact, Christians should expect to suffer for their faith.

But because of who God is and because of what God has done by raising Jesus Christ from death, Christians can have hope in the future. Just as Christ suffered before he received honor from God, so will Christians be tested by suffering before they receive honor when the Lord returns. Peter uses poetic language to remind his readers of what Christ has done.

OUTLINE

- I. Greetings and Prayer (1:1-2)
- II. A Real Reason for Hope (1:3-12)
- III. Living as God's Holy People (1:13-2:17)
- IV. The Example of Christ's Suffering (2:18-25)
- V. Being a Christian and Suffering (3:1-4:19)
- VI. Advice for Church Leaders (5:1-11)
- VII. Final Greetings (5:12-14)

BIBLE BLURB (from@biblesummary)

1Pet1: Peter, to the diaspora. God has given us new birth through Christ. The prophets told of this grace. So be holy in all your conduct.

1Pet2: You are being built up to be a royal priesthood. Submit to human authority. Live as servants of God. Follow Christ in his suffering.

1Pet3: Wives, submit to your husbands. Husbands, honour your wives. Repay evil with blessing. Christ suffered for sins to bring us to God.

Getting to Know God Through His Book - 4 Questions - Ask...

Insight—what does the passage say? Paraphrase the main point(s) and the commands to follow, promises to claim, examples to follow (or avoid), etc.

Question—what don't I understand? Need to know more about? How does this passage make me feel?

Praise—what does this passage teach me about God? Turn what the passage says into praise for the Lord's goodness, power, holiness, wisdom, etc.

Apply—what is God saying to me from this passage? Confess how you have not followed it. Pray, asking God to help you obey. Get quiet and ask God to speak to you.

Journal—write out your prayers, thoughts, responses to God and His Word

HOW TO PRAY

Scripture is God speaking to us. Prayer is us speaking to and listening to God. Jesus gave us the model in the Lord's Prayer (Mt 6). Keep your relationship fresh with the Lord by both reading and praying - two way communication. Remember to look up like Jesus did when He prayed.

1. Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name – focus on God, adore, praise, thank Him – long to see His glory and honor.
2. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done – ask for what you know will please Him, pray back the Scripture – that is His will.
3. Give us this day our daily bread – ask for your needs and others to be met.
4. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us – ask for forgiveness, from God, and from others you may have hurt. Ask God to help you forgive and restore others too. Ask Him to get rid of bitterness and have love & compassion for those who have hurt you.
5. And lead us not into temptation – ask God to take over your day, protect you and others from evil.
6. For thine is the kingdom, power & glory – end by re-focusing on God, His kingdom, power, and glory!
7. Listen – ask God to speak to you by His Spirit – always test what you hear by His Word.
8. Pray the Blind Bartimaeus Prayer (Mark 10) – Tell God what you feel, what you want, and ask God what you should do to get what you want (if what you want is right).