

THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

12/17 – Obad 1, Rev 8
12/18 – Jonah 1-4, Rev 9
12/19 – Mic 1-3, Rev 10
12/20 – Mic 4-5, Rev 11

12/21 – Mic 6-7, Rev 12
12/22 – Nahum 1-3, Rev 13
12/23 – Hab 1-3, Rev 14
12/24 – Zeph 1-3, Rev 15

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

OBADIAH

Obadiah was a prophet, but nothing else is known about him. His name, meaning “worshiper of the Lord,” was fairly common in ancient Israel.

Obadiah wrote about the nation of Edom, which was south of the Dead Sea. The Edomites had been cruel to the Lord’s people Israel, and so the Lord was going to punish them and give their land to Israel.

OUTLINE

- I. Edom’s Pride and Punishment (1-9)
- II. Edom’s Cruelty (10-14)
- III. Victory for Israel (15-21)

BIBLE BLURB (from @biblesummary)

Ob1: The LORD says of Edom: “What disaster awaits you! You stood aloof when strangers entered Jerusalem. Saviours shall rule Mount Esau.”

JONAH

The book of Jonah is different from the other prophetic books, because it gives only one sentence of what the prophet Jonah preached. Instead, this book tells how Jonah disobeyed the Lord and refused to warn Nineveh that it was going to be destroyed. Jonah even wanted the city to be destroyed, because it was the capital city of Assyria, a hated enemy of Israel. But the Lord corrected Jonah; then Jonah went to Nineveh and preached the Lord’s message.

When many people think about the book of Jonah, they think only of Jonah being swallowed by a huge fish. However, the message of this book is that the Lord wants to have mercy on everyone.

OUTLINE

- I. Jonah Runs from the Lord (1)
- II. Jonah Prays to the Lord (2)
- III. Jonah Goes to Nineveh, and Its People Believe God’s Message (3)
- IV. Jonah is Angry Because the Lord Showed Mercy (4)

BIBLE BLURB (from @biblesummary)

Jon1: The LORD sent Jonah to Nineveh. Jonah fled by ship. A storm arose and the men threw Jonah into the sea. A great fish swallowed him.

Jon2: Jonah prayed: “I cried out in my distress. Waters surrounded me. You brought me up from the pit!” The fish vomited him onto dry land.

Jon3: So Jonah went to Nineveh and said, “Nineveh shall be overthrown!” The people fasted and wore sackcloth. God relented of the disaster.

Jon4: Jonah was angry and said, “O LORD, take my life.” A plant sheltered Jonah but it died. The LORD said, “Should I not pity Nineveh?”

MICAH

The messages in this book were especially for Samaria, the capital of Israel, and for Jerusalem, the capital of Judah. Instead of leading their nations to worship and obey the Lord, the officials and people of these capital cities had led their nations to worship other gods and to cheat and rob the poor. And so the Lord was going to punish Israel and Judah.

But the Lord had also promised that in the future the people of Israel and Judah would return to him. Then he and his chosen king would take care of the people, just as shepherds take care of sheep, and there would be peace everywhere.

OUTLINE

- I. The Lord Will Punish His People (1:1-2:11)
- II. A Promise of Hope (2:12-13)
- III. The Lord Will Punish Evil Rulers and Lying Prophets (3:1-12)
- IV. A New Temple in a New Israel (4:1-5:15)
- V. Israel is Declared Guilty (6:1-7:7)
- VI. The Nation Turns to God (7:8-20)

BIBLE BLURB (from @biblesummary)

Mic1: The LORD is coming! The mountains will melt. "I will make Samaria a ruin." Her wound is incurable. Disaster has come to Jerusalem.

Mic2: Woe to those who plot evil! The LORD says: "I am planning disaster. My people have risen up like an enemy. I will gather a remnant."

Mic3: You rulers tear the skin from my people. The LORD says, "The sun will set for the prophets." Zion will be ploughed up like a field.

Mic4: In the last days, nations will come to the mountain of the LORD. Zion will be rescued from Babylon. "I will give you horns of iron."

Mic5: "From you, O Bethlehem, will come a ruler." The remnant of Jacob will be like a lion. "I will punish the nations that did not obey."

Mic6: "O my people, have I wearied you?" What does the LORD require? Act justly and love mercy. "I will make you desolate for your sins."

Mic7: The godly have perished from the earth. But I will look to the LORD. The nations will tremble. Who is a God like you, forgiving sin?

NAHUM

In this book, the prophet Nahum said the Lord was going to bring justice and punish Assyria, because it had been so cruel to other nations. Many Old Testament books also talk about the Lord's mercy when they discuss the Lord's justice. But in this book the Lord is merciful and good only to those who turn to him. Nahum also hinted that one way God has mercy on his people is to punish enemies like Assyria and give his people freedom from their power. And the Lord can do this because he rules the earth.

OUTLINE

- I. The Fierce Anger of the Lord (1:1-6)
- II. Assyria's Doom Brings Hope for the Lord's People (1:7-15)
- III. Nineveh, the Capital of Assyria, Will be Destroyed (2:1-3:19)

BIBLE BLURB (from @biblesummary)

Na1: Against Nineveh: The LORD takes vengeance on his enemies. The LORD says, "I will break his yoke from you." Hold your feasts, O Judah!

Na2: The LORD is restoring Jacob. Chariots race through the streets. Nineveh is like a draining pool. "I am against you," declares the LORD.

Na3: Woe to the bloody city! "The nations will look at your shame." Draw water for the siege. Your shepherds are asleep, O king of Assyria.

HABAKKUK

The first two chapters of this book report a conversation between Habakkuk and the Lord. Habakkuk complained that Judah was full of injustice and crime. The Lord answered that he was going to have the Babylonians punish the people of Judah. But then Habakkuk complained that this would be unfair, because the Babylonians were even worse sinners than the people of Judah! The Lord answered that Babylonia would be punished later.

The last chapter of the book is a prayer in which Habakkuk praises the Lord's power and glory.

OUTLINE

- I. Habakkuk Complains, and the Lord Answers (1-2)
- II. Habakkuk Gives Praise to the Lord (3)

BIBLE BLURB (from @bible summary)

Hab1: O LORD, why do you tolerate evil? "Behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans." Your eyes are pure. Why do you look upon the treacherous?

Hab2: The LORD answered: "The just shall live by faith. Woe to him who plunders nations! What profit is an idol? The LORD is in his temple."

Hab3: O LORD, renew your works! He stood and shook the earth. You crushed the head of the wicked. I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.

ZEPHANIAH

The people of Judah had thought that at a certain time in the future, the Lord was going to make them powerful and would wipe out their enemies. This future time of justice, victory, and celebration was called "the day of the Lord." But Zephaniah told the people that when the day of the Lord did come, the Lord would punish everyone who had not obeyed him. And this included Judah, as well as other nations. The only way that Judah could avoid being swept away by the Lord's anger was to obey the Lord and worship only him.

OUTLINE

- I. Judah and Jerusalem Will be Punished on the Day of the Lord (1:1-18)
- II. Turn to the Lord (2:1-3)
- III. The Nations Will be Punished (2:4-15)
- IV. Judah and Other Nations Will Turn to the Lord (3:1-20)

BIBLE BLURB (from @biblesummary)

Zep1: "I will sweep away everything from the earth," declares the LORD. The day of the LORD is near. "I will bring distress on mankind."

Zep2: Seek the LORD, you humble. Gaza shall be deserted. The LORD is against you, O Canaan. He will stretch out his hand to destroy Assyria.

Zep3: Woe to the rebellious city! "I have cut off nations. I will leave a humble people." Sing, O Zion! The LORD will quiet you by his love.

REVELATION

This book tells what John had seen in a vision about God's message and about what Jesus Christ had said and done. The message has three main parts: (1) There are evil forces at work in the world, and Christians may have to suffer and die; (2) Jesus is Lord, and he will conquer all people and powers who oppose God; and (3) God has wonderful rewards in store for his faithful people, who remain faithful to him, especially for those who lose their lives in his service.

This was a powerful message of hope for those early Christians who had to suffer or die for their faith. In this book they learned that, in spite of the cruel power of the Roman empire, the Lamb of God would win the final victory. And this gave them the courage to be faithful.

Because this book is so full of visions that use ideas and word pictures from the Old Testament, it was like a book with secret messages for the early Christians. The book could be passed around and be understood by Christians, but an official of the Roman empire would not be able to understand it. For example, when the fall of Babylon is described, the early Christians knew that this pointed to the fall of the Roman empire. This knowledge gave them hope.

At the beginning of this book there are seven letters to seven churches. These letters show what different groups of the Lord's followers will do in times of persecution.

The author uses many powerful images to describe God's power and judgment. The vision of God's throne and of the scroll and the Lamb show that God and Christ are in control of all human and supernatural events. Opening seven seals, blowing the seven trumpets, and emptying the seven bowls are among the visions that show God's fierce judgment on the world.

After the suffering has ended, God's faithful people will receive the greatest blessing of all.

OUTLINE

- I. A Prophecy from John (1:1-8)
- II. A Vision of the Living Lord (1:9-20)
- III. Letters to the Seven Churches (2:1-3:22)
- IV. A Vision of Worship in Heaven (4:1-11)
- V. A Scroll with Seven Seals (5:1-6:17)
- VI. Worship in Front of God's Throne (7:1-17)
- VII. Seven Trumpets (8:1-11:19)

- VIII. A Dragon and Two Beasts (12:1-13:18)
- IX. Visions of God's Judgment and Protection (14:1-15:8)
- X. Seven Bowls of God's Anger (16:1-21)
- XI. God's Enemies are Defeated (17:1-20:10)
- XII. The Final Judgment (20:11-15)
- XIII. A New Heaven and a New Earth (21:1-8)
- XIV. New Jerusalem (21:9-22:5)
- XV. Christ Will Soon Return (22:6-21)

BIBLE BLURB (from @biblesummary)

Rev8: With the seventh seal there was silence. I saw seven angels. Four angels blew their trumpets and a third of the earth was destroyed.

Rev9: At the fifth trumpet, locusts from the pit tormented the earth. At the sixth trumpet, four angels killed a third of mankind with fire.

Rev10: I saw an angel with a scroll. He cried out and seven thunders sounded. A voice said, "Eat the scroll." It was sweet and then bitter.

Rev11: The two witnesses will prophesy until the beast kills them. At the seventh trumpet, loud voices said, "Our God shall reign forever."

Rev12: A woman giving birth and a great dragon appeared. Michael and his angels fought the dragon. The dragon was thrown down to the earth.

Rev13: I saw a beast rising out of the sea. It spoke blasphemy against God. Another beast rose and gave everyone a mark. Its number is 666.

Rev14: I saw the Lamb in Zion with the 144,000. Angels said, "The hour of judgement has come." The earth was reaped with a sharp sickle.

Rev15: I saw angels with seven plagues. Those who conquered sang, "Just are your ways, Lord!" The angels were given seven bowls of wrath.

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).