

THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

12/24 – Zeph 1-3, Rev 15
12/25 – Hag 1-2, Rev 16
12/26 – Zech 1-3, Rev 17
12/27 – Zech 4-6, Rev 18

12/28 – Zech 7-9, Rev 19
12/29 – Zech 10-12, Rev 20
12/30 – Zech 13-14, Rev 21
12/31 – Mal 1-4, Rev 22

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

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.

HAGGAI

By 520 BC, many of the Jews had returned to Judah from the exile in Babylonia. The leaders were fairly well off, but most of the people were struggling just to survive. The Lord told Haggai that the reason the people had to struggle was because the temple still had not been rebuilt. Their lack of respect for the Lord’s temple showed that they did not respect the Lord himself, and so he refused to bless them.

The people began work on the temple, and then the Lord promised to bless them and make them prosperous.

OUTLINE

- I. The Lord Says to Rebuild the Temple (1:1-15)
- II. The Lord Promises to Bless His People (2:1-19)
- III. The Lord Promises to be with Zerubbabel (2:20-23)

BIBLE BLURB (from @biblesummary)

Hag1: The LORD says: "Consider your ways! You never have enough because the temple lies in ruins." So the people worked on the temple.

Hag2: The LORD says: "The latter glory of this temple shall be greater than the former. This nation is unclean. But now I will bless you."

ZECHARIAH

The people of Jerusalem had problems. They had begun to rebuild the temple, but the new temple could never be as great as the original one. There was no king from David’s family, and Judah was only a small part of the Medo-Persian empire.

In the first part of this book Zechariah tells how the Lord gave him eight meaningful visions to help the people overcome these problems. Someday, the Lord’s chosen king would again rule in Jerusalem, and all the nations would turn to the Lord and become his

people. But for now, the Lord had chosen Zerubbabel to be the governor and Joshua to be the high priest, and they were to be in charge of the Lord's people.

In the second part of this book the Lord promised he would punish many of the nearby nations and also the leaders of Judah who had been unfaithful.

In the third part the Lord gave Zechariah messages about a time even farther in the future, when Jerusalem and Judah will be attacked by all nations. Many of the people of Judah will be killed, but the Lord himself will appear and rescue his people. They will turn back to him, and he will forgive them. Then mountains around Jerusalem will be flattened, but Jerusalem will remain on the mountain towering high above the land around it. Life-giving streams will flow from Jerusalem, and all people on earth will worship the Lord.

The Lord promised that someday he would again choose a king for his people. In the New Testament both Matthew and John quote part of this book to show that God had chosen Jesus to be that king.

OUTLINE

- I. First Vision: Horses and Riders (1:1-17)
- II. Second Vision: Animal Horns (1:18-21)
- III. Third Vision: A Measuring Line (2:1-13)
- IV. Fourth Vision: Joshua and Satan (3:1-10)
- V. Fifth Vision: A Lampstand and Olive Trees (4:1-14)
- VI. Sixth Vision: A Flying Scroll (5:1-4)
- VII. Seventh Vision: A Woman in a Basket (5:5-11)
- VIII. Eighth Vision: Four Chariots (6:1-8)
- IX. Mourning and Celebrating (6:9-8:23)
- X. The Lord Will Rescue His People, Punish Enemies (9:1-11:3)
- XI. Israel's Leaders are Worthless Shepherds (11:4-17)
- XII. Victory for Jerusalem (12:1-9)
- XIII. The People Will Mourn and Return to the Lord (12:10-13:9)
- XIV. The Final War and the Lord's Victory (14:1-21)

BIBLE BLURB (from @biblesummary)

Zec1: The LORD said, "Return to me." So the people repented. I saw a man on a red horse. The LORD said, "I will return to Zion with mercy."

Zec2: I saw a man going to measure Jerusalem. The LORD says, "I will be her glory." He sent me to the nations. The LORD will inherit Judah.

Zec3: Joshua stood before the angel. The LORD rebuked Satan. They put new clothes on Joshua. The LORD says, "I will bring forth my servant."

Zec4: I saw a lampstand. I asked the angel about it. "Not by might but by my Spirit," says the LORD. "Zerubbabel will complete the temple."

Zec5: I saw a flying scroll. He said, "This is the curse on thieves and liars." I saw a woman in a basket. He said, "This is Wickedness."

Zec6: I saw four chariots with red, black, white and dappled horses. The LORD said, "Make a crown for Joshua. He shall build the temple."

Zec7: The people asked, "Should we fast?" The LORD said, "Show mercy and do not oppress. But they would not listen. So I scattered them."

Zec8: The LORD said: "I am jealous for Zion. I will save my people. Your fasts shall be feasts. Nations shall seek the LORD in Jerusalem."

Zec9: The LORD is against Hadrach, Tyre and Philistia. Rejoice, O Zion! Behold your king, riding on a donkey. The LORD will save his people.

Zec10: Ask the LORD for rain. From Judah will come the cornerstone. "I will save Judah for I am the LORD their God. I will bring them home."

Zec11: The cedar has fallen! The LORD said, "Shepherd the doomed flock." I broke the two staffs. The LORD said, "Woe to the idle shepherd!"

Zec12: The LORD said: "I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock. They will look upon me whom they have pierced. And they will mourn alone."

Zec13: "There will be a fountain to cleanse from sin. I will remove prophets from the land. Strike my shepherd and the sheep will scatter."

Zec14: A day is coming when the LORD will go into battle. Jerusalem will dwell in security. All the nations will worship the LORD of hosts.

MALACHI

The book of Malachi comes from a time after many people of Judah had returned from Babylonia, but just before Ezra and Nehemiah returned. The temple had been rebuilt, and the priests were again offering the people's sacrifices to the Lord. But times were hard, and the people had lost most of their hope for a bright new future in Judah. The people and the priests were no longer showing the proper respect for the Lord or for his temple. They were also making wrong sacrifices and disobeying the laws of God. They were mistreating the poor and powerless, and men were divorcing their wives.

Malachi challenged the people and especially the priests to be faithful to the agreement the Lord had made with Israel. They were to honor the Lord by offering the right kind of sacrifices and by giving ten percent of their harvest to him. Then the Lord would bless them.

OUTLINE

- I. The Lord's Love for Israel (1:1-5)
- II. Against the Priests (1:6-2:9)
- III. Broken Agreements (2:10-17)
- IV. The Lord Will Come (3:1-4)
- V. Don't Cheat God (3:5-15)
- VI. The Lord Will Reward Faithful People and Punish Those Who are Evil (3:16-4:6)

BIBLE BLURB (from @biblesummary)

Mal1: "I have loved you," says the LORD. "Where is my honour? You offer blind and lame sacrifices. My name will be great among the nations."

Mal2: "Now, O priests, I will curse you. You have corrupted the covenant of Levi." Judah has profaned the sanctuary. The LORD hates divorce.

Mal3: "My messenger will prepare the way. I will come to judge. You have robbed me of tithes. The LORD will remember those who serve him."

Mal4: "The day is coming like a furnace. The sun of righteousness will rise. The wicked will be ashes. I will send you Elijah the prophet."

REVELATION

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.

Rev16: The bowls of wrath were poured out. The seas turned to blood, darkness fell, the kings gathered at Armageddon and the earth quaked.

Rev17: I saw a prostitute on a beast with seven heads and ten horns. An angel said, "The heads and horns are kings. The Lamb will conquer."

Rev18: An angel cried, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon!" The kings and merchants will weep. An angel said, "The great city will be thrown down."

Rev19: A multitude cried, "Hallelujah! The Lord reigns." The Word of God led the armies of heaven. The beast was cast into the lake of fire.

Rev20: Satan was bound and the martyrs reigned with Christ for 1,000 years. Then Satan was cast into the lake of fire. The dead were judged.

Rev21: I saw a new heaven and earth. A voice said, "God dwells with his people." An angel showed me the new Jerusalem. Its lamp is the Lamb.

Rev22: The river of life flows from the throne of God. "Behold, I am coming soon. I am the beginning and the end." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

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).