

DAILY BIBLE READING (October)

By following this suggested schedule you will be able to read the entire Bible in one year. If you've missed previous months' installments, you may begin with this one and finish at this time next year. Others in the congregation are reading the same material each day.

JONAH

This short book is more of a narrative than a presentation of the words of a prophet. Jonah means "dove." Does that depict him? Above all the other interesting items in this story is the wonderful description of God's mercy and compassion. There's been a question through the years whether the story of Jonah is actual or figurative. After your reading, ask yourself if it makes any difference.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Oct 1	Jonah 1-4	Another story of a reluctant prophet. Jonah's description in 4:2 is very apt. What is the "sign of Jonah" mentioned by Jesus in Matt. 12:38-42? <i>Comments & Questions:</i>

MICAH

Micah ("Who is like the Lord?") was a contemporary of the prophet Isaiah and his book is practically a compression of Isaiah's with the same messianic thoughts.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Oct 2	Micah 1-3	Note that Micah received his prophecy from the Lord (1:1). God's judgment is sure (3:4). The people's sin is loathsome (3:11). <i>Comments:</i>
Oct 3	Micah 4-7	Take a careful look at all the messianic promises in this section. 6:8 is a simple summary of Old Testament faithfulness. The book ends on a stirring and now familiar theme (7:18-20). <i>Comments & Questions:</i>

NAHUM

Nahum ("Comfort") is a prophet of the Southern Kingdom before the fall of Jerusalem. His prophecy is against the city of Nineveh in Assyria which finally fell in 612 BC.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Oct 4	Nahum 1-3	The prophecy again comes as a vision (1:1). The comfort offered to the Israelites is well established in 1:7-8 and 1:12. <i>Comments & Questions:</i>

HABAKKUK

Habakkuk ("to embrace") was a prophet of Nahum's time. He asks the "eternal why" and is often called the "philosopher of the prophets." A good book for troubled people.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Oct 5	Hab 1-3	The book moves through questions to answers to final exclamation. 2:4b is quoted in Rom. 1:17 (the "battle cry of the Reformation"). Finally the prophet stops raising questions and raises a prayer instead, ending in an expression of trust (3:17-19). <i>Comments & Questions:</i>

ZEPHANIAH

Zephaniah (“the Lord is hidden”) is a contemporary of both Nahum and Habakkuk. His theme is God’s judgment on the nations and the restoration of Israel (a familiar theme to us by now).

Oct 6 Zeph. 1-3 The “day of the Lord” is coming because the Lord is just (1:12 & 3:5). It’s coming for a reason (3:7), yet the promise of mercy and grace comes with it (3:18-20). *Comments & Questions:*

HAGGAI

Haggai (“my festival”) is a post-exilic prophet (i.e. after the Israelites were released from captivity and home again). He calls the people to the task of rebuilding the temple which was destroyed when Jerusalem was conquered.

Oct 7 Hag 1-2 This short book is rather dry, but the important point is that the Lord is still speaking to his people, his Spirit is still present among them (2:5), and worship will continue in the temple. *Comments & Questions:*

ZECHARIAH

Zechariah (“the Lord remembers”) is also a post-exilic prophet. He envisions a new age under God’s grace.

Oct 8 Zech 1-3 The theme is set forth in 1:3-6. Then eight visions are presented. But these are wonderful visions of peace, reconstruction, deliverance, etc. *Comments:*

Oct 9 Zech 4-6 The visions continue and speak of the removal of wickedness. *Comments:*

Oct 10 Zech 7-9 These chapters are some of the most precious in the entire Old Testament! Enjoy them! *Comments & Questions:*

Oct 11 Zech 10-12 Note all of the prophecies of Christ’s passion and death. That’s why some call Zechariah the “prophet of Holy Week.” *Comments & Questions:*

Oct 12 Zech 13-14 What is the “that day” of which he speaks? Read Matthew 23:35. *Comments:*

MALACHI

Malachi (“my messenger”) is not only the last book of the Old Testament, but probably the last of the prophets whose words are recorded. Some call him the “Hebrew Socrates” because of his pattern: 1) statement, 2) question, and 3) refutation.

Oct 13 Mal 1-4 Pay attention to the very first words from the Lord (1:2). Other memorable passages are 1:6, 2:10, 3:7. Chapter 4 prepares the way for John the Baptist and the New Testament (to which we now turn!)

Congratulations! You have now read the entire Old Testament! But now let's look at God's greatest covenant-keeping acts of grace, mercy and love . . .

MATTHEW

Matthew is one of the three synoptic Gospels (which “see things alike”). Mark and Luke have some variations and additions. This Gospel seems to be divided into five parts, each of which contains Jesus’ teachings and action narratives, ending with the repeated phrase, “and when Jesus finished saying these things” (7:28, 11:1, 13:53, 19:1, 26:1). There is also a prologue and epilogue.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Oct 14	Matt 1-3	What do you remember about the four women mentioned in Jesus’ lineage (Tamar, Rahab, Ruth and Bathsheba – wife of Uriah)? Were these illustrious ancestors of our Lord? What does “Christ” mean? <i>Comments:</i>
Oct 15	Matt 4-6	The Sermon on the Mount is the Lord’s description of the disciples’ relation to God. What is true righteousness? <i>Comments & Questions:</i>
Oct 16	Matt 7-9	Here we see Jesus as a “man on a mission.” What is some people’s complaint about him (9:2). <i>Comments & Questions:</i>
Oct 17	Matt 10-12	Knowing the Old Testament is very important to understanding Matthew’s gospel. Note how often the evangelist says, “this was to fulfill the prophecy.”
Oct 18	Matt 13-15	Beautiful descriptions of the Kingdom of God! But Jesus’ opposition is growing. <i>Comments & Questions:</i>
Oct 19	Matt 16-18	Here Jesus deals a lot with the disciples, helping them grow. The most important question asked them (as us!) is in 16:15. <i>Comments & Questions:</i>
Oct 20	Matt 19-21	He spells out his purpose in coming (20:17-19). This is what it’s all leading up to (20:28). <i>Comments & Questions:</i>
Oct 21	Matt 22-24	Those who think Jesus was always mild mannered should read this section! Our Lord is always very direct! <i>Comments & Questions:</i>
Oct 22	Matt 25-28	Jesus assures today’s disciples of his continuing presence (26:26 and 28:20).

(we read the Gospel of Mark earlier in the year)

LUKE

Luke is also the author of Acts (compare Luke 1:1 with Acts 1:1). So he wrote a large portion of the New Testament. He was not an eyewitness disciple, but a latter follower, a doctor friend of Paul's. What does his prologue (1:1-4) say about the nature of a "gospel," the nature of Biblical inspiration, and about what happened between the time of Christ's ascension and the actual writing of the Gospel?

<u>Date</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Oct 23	Luke 1-3	This section contains songs which have become familiar parts of our liturgy. Chapter 2 is the most famous chapter of the New Testament. How does the genealogy in chapter 3 compare with Matthew 1? <i>Comments & Questions:</i>
Oct 24	Luke 4-6	4:14-21 makes the complete tie-up with the Old Testament. Chapter 6 is Luke's shorter version of the Sermon on the Mount. <i>Comments & Questions:</i>
Oct 25	Luke 7-9	All is fulfilled in Jesus (7:22-23). The nature of discipleship is described in chapter 9. The supreme question is asked in 9:20. <i>Comments & Questions:</i>
Oct 26	Luke 10-12	Is the Gospel for everyone to understand (10:21-22)? What's the necessary ingredient to understanding the Gospel? <i>Comments & Questions:</i>
Oct 27	Luke 13-15	Christ's message is that we have a gracious Father who accepts us because we believe in his Son. But the Son also has something to say about good works. Jesus' mission is simply stated in 15:2. <i>Comments & Questions:</i>
Oct 28	Luke 16-18	After more instruction to the disciples, Jesus sets his face towards Jerusalem.
Oct 29	Luke 19-21	In the Gospels, the "passion narratives" (chapters dealing with Christ's last week in Jerusalem) are the most lengthy sections and the most similar from one Gospel to another. These are obviously the most treasured memories of the early Christians before the Gospels were written down. <i>Comments:</i>
Oct 30	Luke 22-24	What more can be said?!
Oct 31	<i>Happy Reformation Day! Use reading time to read Luther's Catechism</i>	

Pick up November's schedule in the church narthex or from our website at www.ctk-nola.org

