

## **The Bible Challenge**

At last! We're coming to the final days of the Bible Challenge (in eight days, because 365 does not divide evenly into weeks)!

We will conclude with the last of Zechariah, and all of Malachi, which both written after the exile of Israel was over. Interestingly, Malachi is not the name of a prophet - unlike many of the other books of prophecy, we don't know who wrote Malachi. The name simply means "my messenger," and the book itself is written as a series of speeches by this messenger, which again warn the returning exiles to live fully into the covenant they made with God in the past, or face the consequences.

We read the last two psalms (together, for a second time) on the last day, so you can say that you've read the entire Bible and the book of psalms twice. Interestingly, we also stop in the middle of Luke, right as Jesus starts expanding his ministry, which may seem to leave things unresolved. And, we don't read the "Apocrypha," or books that were not believed to be part of the original Hebrew Bible. These may be included in the Bible you are using for the Bible Challenge, and we do read some portions of them in church. They might be interesting to read through now that you have finished the Bible Challenge. Or, you can try some other things, like starting a practice of daily prayer or doing the Bible Challenge with a different translation.

Here is the FINAL reading schedule:

Monday: Zechariah 12; Psalm 141; Luke 3

Tuesday: Zechariah 13; Psalm 142; Luke 4

Wednesday: Zechariah 14; Psalm 143; Luke 5

Thursday: Malachi 1; Psalm 144; Luke 6

Friday: Malachi 2; Psalm 145-6; Luke 7

Saturday: Malachi 3; Psalm 147-8; Luke 8

LAST DAY: Malachi 4; Psalm 149-150; Luke 9

Congratulations on your accomplishment! May it inspire you to great things.