

The Bible Challenge

Ten months down, and two to go, and we'll finish the whole Bible in a year! This week we finish both the apocalypses – in Daniel and in Revelation, and move on to slightly calmer fare. In the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), we begin the book of Hosea, the first of the Lesser Prophets. As you might expect, the lesser prophets did not write as much as Isaiah or Nehemiah. In addition, Hosea (whom we will read this week) and Amos (whom we will begin next week) prophesied in the northern kingdom of Israel, while the others (including Isaiah) prophesied more to those in the south. Though many of the complaints of the prophets sound remarkably similar (chastising the priests and the Israelites for disloyalty), there are also some cultural differences that you may notice. Hosea is also one of those prophets who lives his life symbolically, and does things that represent what Israel has done that angered God.

We will also wrap up the book of Revelation this week. Once again (just like when we finished the psalms), we will cycle back to the beginning, and the Gospel of Matthew. Of course (just as when we re-started the psalms), you could choose to just not re-read the Gospels. But, I suspect you may find more in Matthew this time around, since you'll now have a better understanding of the traditions of the Jewish people who encountered Jesus.

This week's reading schedule:

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Monday: Daniel 11-12; Psalm 97; Revelation 21

Tuesday: Hosea 1-2; Psalm 98; Revelation 22

Wednesday: Hosea 3-4; Psalm 99; Matthew 1

Thursday: Hosea 5-6; Psalm 100; Matthew 2

Friday: Hosea 7-8; Psalm 101; Matthew 3

Saturday: Hosea 9-10; Psalm 102; Matthew 4

Sunday – see you in church!