



Bible Challenge

Week of September 10th

The Bible Challenge - Week of September 10

I made a mistake last week, and accidentally copied the wrong week's lessons for the Bible Challenge. We updated it on the web, once we realized the mistake, and I imagine some people might have just kept reading on their own. But some might not. I'm going to do summaries of the books you might have started this week and next week, along with two weeks' schedules, to accommodate everyone. And, if you just took a week off – don't worry. Just remember to save the schedule each week, until you get to it.

Here are summaries of the new books you will (or will have) encounter(ed):

Titus – Like the letters to Timothy, Titus is concerned with making sure that churches have good teaching and leadership. Sadly, Titus spends a lot of time talking about the bad behaviour of the “false leaders,” which makes it a bit hard to understand what the core of their bad teaching was (it's not just about gossiping).

Philemon – This short letter has caused centuries of problems. In short, Paul is writing to Philemon about the future of his slave, Onesimus, who has taken refuge with Paul. Paul appeals to Philemon to treat Onesimus in a Christian manner, but (problematically), stops short of outright condemning slavery.

Hebrews – Nobody really knows who wrote Hebrews, which is quite possibly one of the best theological treatises in the Bible (though admittedly, also a very difficult read). It mainly tries to explain who Jesus Christ was (God, not a human or an angel) and why Jesus is the new covenant (different from how the Jewish people had lived and understood God in the past).

Jeremiah – those of you with a passion for 1960's music may remember the song that began “Jeremiah was a bullfrog, was a good friend of mine, never understood a single word he said...” It may seem relevant to this book. Jeremiah was a prophet in the same era as Isaiah, but stayed within Judah. Unlike Isaiah, he doesn't get particularly optimistic, and instead tends to make symbolic actions to explain how Israel has behaved and what God is doing in response.

Here is the reading schedule:

Monday, Sept. 3 – Isaiah 43-45; Psalm 39; II Timothy 3

Tuesday, Sept. 4 - Isaiah 46-48; Psalm 40; II Timothy 4

Wednesday, Sept. 5 – Isaiah 49-51; Psalm 41; Titus 1

Thursday, Sept. 6 – Isaiah 52-54; Psalm 42; Titus 2

Friday, Sept. 7 – Isaiah 55-57; Psalm 43; Titus 3

Saturday, Sept. 8 – Isaiah 58-60; Psalm 44; Philemon

Sunday – see you in church!

Monday, Sept. 10 – Isaiah 61-63; Psalm 45; Hebrews 1

Tuesday, Sept. 11 – Isaiah 64-66; Psalm 46; Hebrews 2

Wednesday, Sept. 12 – Jeremiah 1-3; Psalm 47; Hebrews 3

Thursday, Sept. 13 – Jeremiah 4-6; Psalm 48; Hebrews 4

Friday, Sept. 14 – Jeremiah 7-9; Psalm 49; Hebrews 5

Saturday, Sept. 15 – Jeremiah 10-12; Psalm 50; Hebrews 6

Sunday – See you in church !