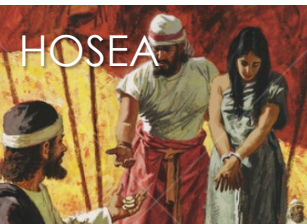


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The final book of the Pentateuch is Deuteronomy. That word means “second law” or “retelling of the Law.” After four decades in the wilderness, the older, rebellious generation had died out, but a new generation had grown up during those years. This new generation was poised and ready to inherit the Promised Land, but they needed to be reminded of the Law and they needed to renew the covenant. Thus, on the plains of Moab just east of the Jordan River, Moses gives a series of sermons that “re-give” the Law for the new generation. Through these sermons, Moses begins with a reminder of the nation’s past; moves on to a lesson for the present generation; and lastly gives warnings concerning the future. The final chapters contain Moses’ parting words to the nation, and also tell us about the death and burial of the great Old Testament prophet Moses.



The final book of our plan this quarter was the Old Testament prophecy of Hosea. Hosea is the first of the “minor” prophets in our English Bibles. This prophecy is a poignant and tragic story of Israel’s unfaithfulness despite God’s great love and provision. Hosea’s own life reflects the dismal situation of Israel. Hosea’s wife, Gomer, was unfaithful and played the role of a harlot after bearing Hosea three children. Despite her unfaithfulness, Hosea continues to love Gomer, and even goes so far as to save her from slavery by purchasing her back from the slave market after her wicked lifestyle leads her there. This picture was an example of Israel. Despite God’s love, the nation committed spiritual adultery by going after foreign God’s and living immoral lives. Hosea’s message contains dire warnings of judgment that went unheeded by the majority of Israelites, and ultimately the nation was destroyed by Assyria. Mixed with the warnings of judgment, however, are beautiful messages of hope and redemption for those that will repent of their sin and return to God.

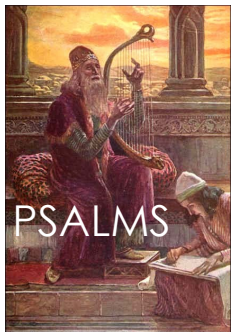
Third Quarter Review

Great job! You’ve nearly completed a full year of reading through the Bible! At this point you’ve read twelve full books, and a majority of the Psalms. Over the past twelve weeks you read the second gospel of the New Testament, which is the book of Mark. You finished out the Pentateuch with the books of Numbers and Deuteronomy. You read the first three “books” of Psalms (Psalms 1-106), and you read the first of the Minor Prophets—the book of Hosea. As with previous quarters, this week is designed to be a review week. This will give you a chance to catch up on any reading you missed or fell behind on, and it will give you a chance to re-read and review any sections you might like to revisit. Below and on the back are brief recaps of the books you’ve read these past three months.

The Gospel according to Mark is the shortest of the four gospel records, but as we saw it is an action-packed book. Mark focuses primarily on what Jesus did, highlighting Jesus’ miracles, healings, and triumphs over demons. Mark’s original audience may have been Christian’s with a gentile background, but his message is one for all people in all times. He shows Jesus to be the Messiah as well as the perfect Servant of God. Ultimately, Mark shows how Jesus, as God’s perfect servant, fulfilled God’s plan and brought hope and redemption to mankind!

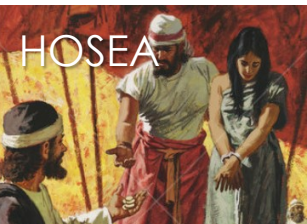


Numbers, the third book of the “Pentateuch,” continues the story of the fledgling nation of Israel. For a year the nation had been encamped at the foot of Mt. Sinai. There they had received the Law and built the tabernacle. Finally it was time for them to move once more, this time toward the Promised Land of Canaan. What should have been a journey of a few days turned into decades because of the nation’s rebellious spirit. While most of Numbers is a disheartening account of the nation’s tendency to lose faith, complain, and rebel—it ends on a high note. A new generation grew up in the wilderness, and this new generation had learned to trust in God. They stood prepared to renew the covenant and inherit the land of Canaan.



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