



This past quarter you read the final book of wisdom/poetry literature from the Old Testament—the book Song of Solomon. This book can also be called “The Song of Songs” for it is a love poem, and it describes the beauty of true, godly, love. This love poem teaches many important lessons. It reminds us of the importance and beauty of intimacy, kindness,

and true love. It also reminds us that love is beautiful when it is godly. The world has many twisted definitions of love, but the Bible can show us the path to true love and its many blessings. Further, the picture portrayed in Song of Solomon also points to a beautiful picture of Christ and the Church—the Shepherd who returns as a mighty king to take His bride to be with Him forever more!

Daniel is the last of the “Major Prophets” in the Old Testament. This book is a mixture of narrative and apocalyptic prophecy. The first half of the book recounts some wonderful stories of Daniel and his friends (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego) and their faithfulness in difficult times. Some of these narratives include Daniel’s ability to interpret king Nebuchadnezzar’s dreams. The latter half of Daniel contains various prophecies that foretell various historical events, as well as prophecies that look forward to the end of time. Daniel’s book, much like Revelation, is a reminder that for all the workings of men, it is God who is truly in control.



Hebrews does not include the author’s name, and so many theories exist about who wrote it. Some believe that Hebrews wasn’t originally a letter, but may have been a sermon that was then written down. Whatever the case, it has an important message. It was addressed to Christians who were tempted to turn back to their old ways under the Mosaic Law. Hebrews

reminds these people that they are heirs of better promises, living under a better covenant, which was given by Jesus—a better lawgiver, king, sacrifice, and priest. It is an important reminder for all Christians to not turn back to old ways, but to endure in faithful service to Jesus the King!

We finished our reading plan with the final book of the Bible—Revelation. This is the sole book of prophecy in the New Testament. It was written by John and addressed to “the seven churches of Asia.” Chapters 2 and 3 are direct messages from the Lord to these churches concerning things they are to be commended for, and some things they are rebuked for. From chapter four on, the book is a series of visions that John sees concerning future events. While there is much disagreement about how to interpret Revelation, one thing can easily be agreed on: the message of Revelation is that God wins in the end. Christians will often suffer, sometimes even violently, for their faith, but those who remain faithful until death will be rewarded with eternal life and a home in Heaven—a perfect place where God will dwell forever with His people!



“That You May Grow Thereby...”

A weekly Bible reading plan



Final Review

Congratulations! Over the past two years, you have read through the entire Bible! This last quarter has been a busy one. You finished the Old Testament historical books by reading Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther. You then read the letters of Paul that were written to individuals—First and Second Timothy, Titus, and Philemon. You read several Old Testament books of prophecy, including; Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Daniel, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. You covered one final book of Old Testament poetry with the book Song of Solomon, and lastly you read the book of Revelation. That’s a lot of books, so this final week of the reading plan is meant as a review and catch up week. Now that you’ve read through the Bible, it’s time to start again!

The books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther continue the history of the Jewish people during and after their Babylonian captivity. Esther tells the incredible story of how the Jews avoided genocide during the captivity. Ezra and Nehemiah tell about the return of the Jews to Jerusalem, the rebuilding of the temple, and the rebuilding of the city walls. These books not only contain important history, but valuable lessons in faithfulness, leadership, and God’s love.



While most of Paul’s letters were written to congregations, there are a few in the New Testament that were written to individuals. The two letters to Timothy and the letter to Titus were written to younger evangelist to guide them in their local works. These books teach us a great deal about leadership and the work of the church. Philemon was a letter written to a friend concerning a run-away slave who had converted to Christ. This book is a short but powerful letter concerning the love of Christian brethren.

Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah were some of the final prophets that warned God’s people of the judgment that was pending because of the people’s rebellion. Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi were all “post-exilic” prophets that worked after the initial return from Babylonian captivity. All of these prophets contain warnings and instructions that are still important for God’s people today!



Minor Prophets:

Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi



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