

One Year through the Old Testament

DANIEL, CON'T	3
DECEMBER 1: DANIEL 8:1 – 8:27	3
DECEMBER 2: DANIEL 9:1 – 11:1	4
DECEMBER 3: DANIEL 11:2 – 11:35	5
DECEMBER 4: DANIEL 11:36 – 12:13	6
HOSEA	7
DECEMBER 5: HOSEA 1:1 – 3:5	7
DECEMBER 6: HOSEA 4:1 – 5:15	8
DECEMBER 7: HOSEA 6:1 – 9:17	9
DECEMBER 8: HOSEA: 10:1 – 14:9	10
JOEL	11
DECEMBER 9: JOEL 1:1 – 3:21	11
AMOS	12
DECEMBER 10: AMOS 1:1 – 3:5	12
DECEMBER 11: AMOS 4:1 – 6:14	13
DECEMBER 12: AMOS 7:1 – 9:15	14
OBADIAH	15
DECEMBER 13: OBADIAH 1 – 21	15
JONAH	16
DECEMBER 14: JONAH 1:1 – 4:1	16
MICAH	17
DECEMBER 15: MICAH 1:1 – 4:13	17
DECEMBER 16: MICAH 5:1 – 7:20	18
NAHUM	19
DECEMBER 17: NAHUM 1:1 – 3:19	19

One Year through the Old Testament

HABAKKUK	20
<hr/>	
DECEMBER 18: HABAKKUK 1:1 – 3:19	20
ZEPHANIAH	21
<hr/>	
DECEMBER 19: ZEPHANIAH 1:1 – 3:20	21
HAGGAI	22
<hr/>	
DECEMBER 20: HAGGAI 1:1 – 2:23	22
ZECHARIAH	23
<hr/>	
DECEMBER 21: ZECHARIAH 1:1 – 1:21	23
DECEMBER 22: ZECHARIAH 2:1 – 3:10	24
DECEMBER 23: ZECHARIAH 4:1 – 5:11	25
DECEMBER 24: ZECHARIAH 6:1 – 7:14	26
DECEMBER 25: ZECHARIAH 8:1 – 8:23	27
DECEMBER 26: ZECHARIAH 9:1 – 9:17	28
DECEMBER 27: ZECHARIAH 10:1 – 11:17	29
DECEMBER 28: ZECHARIAH 12:1 – 13:9	30
DECEMBER 29: ZECHARIAH 14:1 – 14:21	31
MALACHI	32
<hr/>	
DECEMBER 30: MALACHI 1:1 – 2:17	32
DECEMBER 31: MALACHI 3:1 – 4:6	33

One Year through the Old Testament

Daniel, con't

December 1: Daniel 8:1 – 8:27

- 1) When did this vision take place? Babylon was ready to fall. Remember that the succession of empires that had and would have an effect upon the Christian church was the following: Assyria, Babylon, Medes and Persians, Greece, Rome.
- 2) Again this is a prophecy about the future and kingdoms that were to come. What does the ram represent?
- 3) What does the goat represent?
- 4) The goat with one horn represents Alexander the Great who rose to power phenomenally but fell suddenly and his kingdom broke off into four other kingdoms. That is what happened.
- 5) Verse 9 seems to refer to Antiochus Epiphanes who extended his power toward the "Beautiful Land." What is that?
- 6) Look at verse 11. How did he treat the "Beautiful Land?"
- 7) How long was this persecution to last? It appears to be a very symbolic number more than a specific one. It was long but it had an end.
- 8) In chapter seven there was a little horn that seems to refer to the Antichrist. This chapter seems to point to Antiochus to be a type or picture of the Antichrist.
- 9) God is the God of history and the nations. On this day just one day after the capture of Saddam Hussein, what does God still do?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord Jesus, I thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Without your Spirit I would not be able to call on you as my Savior and Lord. Thank you for your Holy Word through which the Holy Spirit works. Thank you for water baptism through which the Spirit works. When I desire the Holy Spirit, make me hungry for your word. Help me to recall also my baptism where you placed your name upon me - the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit - and made my body the temple of your Holy Spirit. Help me to remember that I do not earn the gift of the Holy Spirit by my prayers, devotion or tears. Help me to remember - and rejoice - that the gift of the Holy Spirit is entirely a gift of your grace - your undeserved love. Help me to remember that it is not my wrestlings and prayers that cause the Holy Spirit to dwell inside of me. Give me peace in knowing that I have everything I need in you, dear Jesus, and I desire nothing more. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

December 2: Daniel 9:1 –11:1

- 1) How does Daniel make it clear that he is a student of the Bible?
- 2) How was God going to use Daniel to fulfill the Scriptures?
- 3) How would you characterize Daniel's prayer in 9:4-19?
- 4) There are different interpretations of Daniel's dream. The most reasonable one based on Scripture and the history of Israel is the following: The seventy sevens begins with the edict that the Jews would return and rebuild the temple and conclude with Christ came and finished his work.
- 5) The division would be like this:
 - a. Seven 'sevens' represent the time the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt at the time of Ezra and Nehemiah.
 - b. Sixty two 'sevens' represent the period of time from Jerusalem rebuilding to Messiah's coming and his death.
 - c. The one 'seven' is the time in which Messiah confirms his grace with many. In other words the text doesn't emphasize so much the period of time as much as what happens within each timeframe. These are hard words and probably need more study than a daily study like this one. There are all kinds of false and contradictory teachings that come out of this vision.
- 6) Chapter 10 begins by giving a timeframe when these words are said. When was this taking place?
- 7) What effect did the heavenly visitor have upon Daniel?

Important thoughts from the reading:

O Holy One of Israel, make us painfully aware of our sin. Show us that our hearts—apart from you—are dead as stone. Throw away our excuses—our attempts to duck responsibility. Wash us squeaky clean deep inside with Jesus' innocent blood. Give us new hearts, with new attitudes and priorities.

Engrave on our hearts the prayer Jesus spoke the night he was betrayed—I pray that all those who believe in me may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they be brought to complete unity.

Unite us with our Savior, that through him we may be united with all believers. And, by your grace alone, bring unity to our nation. Take people of countless sizes, shapes, colors, languages, and customs—and make them one. Hold us safe and close in Jesus' nail-pierced hands. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

December 3: Daniel 11:2 – 11:35

- 1) How many kings would follow Cyrus, the first of the kings of the Persian Empire?
- 2) What would the fourth king (Xerxes, he was also known as Ahasuerus) do?
- 3) Alexander the Great was the great king who broke the Persians. He died at the age of 32 and left his empire to his four generals. Note 11:4b
- 4) Two of the four allotments were ignored. The ones that are dealt with are the northern territory (the Seleucids) and the southern (Ptolemies). What kind of relationship would they have?
- 5) Daniel 11: 14-20 deals with hatred that develops between the north and the south. How would the Jews be involved?
- 6) Verses 21-35 prophesies Antiochus Epiphanes. He is often referred to as the “Antichrist of the Old Testament.” While he hated Egypt and battled there four times, on one return he went through Israel and killed 80,000 people and took another 40,000 as prisoners and set up a pig in the temple of the Jews. How does the Lord give the readers of this prophecy hope?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord God, be with us in our daily calling as we proceed through life. Supply all that we need to sustain us on our trip to eternity. Bring us, at the end of our journey, to our heavenly homeland - through Jesus Christ who lived and died and paid for the price of admission that will enable us to walk joyfully through the gates of your eternal kingdom. Amen

One Year through the Old Testament

December 4: Daniel 11:36 – 12:13

- 1) These words are difficult to understand. They seem to refer to Antiochus Epiphanes and yet they seem to go beyond. They seem to refer to the Antichrist of which Antiochus is a shadow. What verses here seem to indicate that?
- 2) The last six verses of Daniel 11 are also very difficult and must be understood in the context of all of the Scriptures. Who would give the Antichrist a hard time?
- 3) To what does the “Beautiful Land” refer to?
- 4) Chapter 12 ends Daniel on a word of encouragement. What are the words of encouragement?
- 5) The numbers mean that there is an end to all this. Daniel 7-12 are difficult words of the Bible to understand. Get “the People’s Bible” from the Northwestern Publishing House to help you understand them.

Important thoughts from the reading:

O ascended Lord, thank you for the gift of pastors and teachers to feed your flock. Enable them, by the power of the Spirit, to stand firm in the midst of the trials and stresses of this world. Give them the courage to speak your Word faithfully and the grace to reflect your love in their actions. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

Hosea

December 5: Hosea 1:1 – 3:5

- 1) The last twelve books of the Bible are known as the Minor Prophets. Among the Jews the twelve serve as one book call the the “Book of the Twelve.” These books are not chronological. Please note when Hosea says he wrote. This places him at the time of Isaiah. Do you remember what was happening at that time?
- 2) What was the unusual command that God made of Hosea? Why?
- 3) What was significant about the name that the child was given?
- 4) What were the names and backgrounds of the other names of the other children given by God?
- 5) What occurred as chapter two begins?
- 6) How would Gomer’s soap opera behavior prove to be a lesson for God’s people?
- 7) How would Hosea’s treatment of Gomer be an object lesson for Israel?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord God, we thank you for calling us to the fellowship of faith, for uniting us in love, and for making us members of the church established by your dear Son, Jesus. Bless our synod and its many congregations united for larger and more effective service. Bless its officers and organizations, its pastors, teachers, and people. Keep us in true unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, and make us fruitful in every good work through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

December 6: Hosea 4:1 – 5:15

- 1) What is the charge that God brings against Israel? (4:1,2)
- 2) Why shouldn't they bother bringing accusation against each other?
- 3) Who was a problem that brought about Israel's state of affairs?
- 4) We get a real peak at the religion that was practiced. What was the religion?
- 5) Remember at this time there was a division between Israel and Judah. What was the warning to Judah?
- 6) How can people seek the Lord and not find him? (5:6)
- 7) How does the Lord mention Judah?
- 8) What do you see as applicable to our land?

Important thoughts from the reading:

O Lord, you promise that in all things you work for the good of those who love you. Help me see your loving hand in this time of trouble. Save me from doubt, relieve my anguish, and lead me through these dark days with the light of your presence, for Jesus sake. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

December 7: Hosea 6:1 – 9:17

- 1) Notice how the first verses of this reading spell out the main teachings of the Bible – the Law and the Gospel.
- 2) While much of what he says is directed toward the northern kingdom (Ephraim), who is not left out of his warning?
- 3) What does he mean when he says “he desires mercy, not sacrifice?”
- 4) He lists sins that were seen in the land. Is there any difference from what we see today in our own land?
- 5) How did Israel insult God? (7:11)
- 6) What does God say repeatedly that he ready to do?
- 7) What does 8:7 mean?
- 8) How are God’s spokesmen today treated like maniacs? (9:7)
- 9) Note how the Minor prophets have so much to say to us today.

Important thoughts from the reading:

Heavenly Father, when Satan tempts us to feel that You don't hear our prayers, and that only a miracle could solve all our problems, then cause us to look about and see miracles all around. As Jesus reminds us in the parable (Matthew 6:25ff), the same almighty God Who feeds the birds and Who colors the flowers will also provide for His children. And let Your Holy Spirit remind them of the greatest miracle of all, the miracle of salvation, that God did not spare His Own Son, but delivered Him up for us all. Let that be our assurance that God does hear our prayers and that He also answers our prayers in the best possible manner and the proper time. Amen

One Year through the Old Testament

December 8: Hosea: 10:1 – 14:9

- 1) When God called Israel a spreading vine, what did he mean by that?
- 2) God makes the promise that Israel will be destroyed. What are the reasons according to chapter 10?
- 3) Where did you hear 10:8?
- 4) What specifically does Hosea say the remedy is for their condition?
- 5) Who moved Israel or God?
- 6) To what does God compare his love?
- 7) 12:1-6 reminds Israel to remember Jacob. Why?
- 8) What does 13:4 make very clear?
- 9) What happens when people don't respond to the Lord's love?
- 10) What is the theme of chapter 14?

Important thoughts from the reading:

When I am in distress, dear Lord, I ask you to listen to the cry of my heart. I neither can nor will prescribe the time and the way in which my distress might be removed. I will wait for you to determine the when and how of my relief. Strengthen my faith and give me patience to bear my trouble so that at last I may be glad when you visit me with your grace and remove my distress. Dear Father, you have never forsaken your children; do not forsake me now. You cheer the hearts of your despairing children; lift me up at your appointed time. I leave all to your wisdom, love, understanding, and goodness. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

Joel

December 9: Joel 1:1 – 3:21

- 1) We don't know exactly the time of Joel's writing. Many place him between Hosea and Amos historically (850 BC?). That could be right. He never mentions the northern kingdom of Israel, only Judah. His message, however, is timeless.
- 2) What disaster had come upon Judah?
- 3) What couldn't be done in Judah because of the plague?
- 4) Joel calls for repentance. Why?
- 5) What was the plague of locusts a picture of?
- 6) What is the promise of chapter two?
- 7) What does the future also hold for Judah? 2:28-29
- 8) What is the promise of what is going to happen to the people who opposed God's people?
- 9) Where are you and I referenced in these verses?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Holy Spirit, Comforter sent from Jesus, work in us by the Word that we may know the truth in Christ. Guard and keep us in the faith that saves. Fill us with power so that we delight in doing good works to the glory of God the Father. Move us to be active in spreading the good news of Jesus to people everywhere so that you may work saving faith in their hearts also. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

Amos

December 10: Amos 1:1 – 3:5

- 1) The time of Amos' writing is clear. When did he prophesy?
- 2) Do you know of other prophets who were contemporaries?
- 3) Notice all the kingdoms that God gives warning to through Amos. Why?
- 4) In chapter two he speaks to Judah and Israel. There is no Gospel in these words. What are some of the sins of the countries?
- 5) To whom is chapter three addressed?
- 6) In 3:15ff what kind of economy did the people enjoy?
- 7) What do you think of the prophet Amos' relevance in today's society?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord Jesus, you have promised your church that you will soon return in glory to deliver us from all our troubles and sorrows. We long for your appearing and pray "Come, Lord Jesus!" We rejoice that you have shortened these perilous last days for the sake of your elect. For that mercy we thank you! And when you come, grant that we may be found faithful, trusting in the salvation you have given us and making good use of our time of grace. Come quickly, Lord Jesus! Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

December 11: Amos 4:1 – 6:14

- 1) As you can see Amos is very much a law prophecy against both kingdoms (6:1). As we read through this book and other prophetic books. What is God saying about following his will?
- 2) The book was written before the fall of the northern kingdom. What does God say he did for the people to try to stop them from their sin?
- 3) What does that say about the Lord's patience?
- 4) In 5:2 he says that they should seek the Lord and live and not go to Bethel, Gilgal or Beersheba. What was in those cities?
- 5) What was the economy like at this time?
- 6) Looking at 5:21ff, what kind of religion was practiced?
- 7) What does 5:19 mean?
- 8) 6:1ff speaks of a life of leisure enjoyed by the people. What does this mean for our lives?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Dear Father, the time is near to commemorate the birth of your Son, my Savior. I wish to receive him into my hearts, but my heart is stained with sin. It is not fit as a home for one so pure and holy. There is pride, doubt, insincerity, false humility, and fleshly desire to want my will and not yours to be done. That is why I come to you and ask that you not only forgive me this uninviting heart, but that you use your Word to root out all that makes me unfit to be called your own. Let me look forward, not only to the arrival of the Babe of Bethlehem, but also the arrival of the King of kings as he comes in glory. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

December 12: Amos 7:1 – 9:15

- 1) Amos has a vision. What does he see?
- 2) Amos interceded. What was the result?
- 3) In 7:7 there is a second vision. What does he see?
- 4) What is a plumb line and what did it symbolize?
- 5) Amos and Amaziah were on opposite sides. What did Amos prophesy was going to happen to Amaziah and to Israel?
- 6) In Chapter 8 the sins of Israel were being described. The sins to some, perhaps to many, would be described as small. Yet what does the Lord say about them?
- 7) What kind of famine was Israel about to experience? Why?
- 8) In chapter nine in verses 1-10 God says there will be inescapable judgment. How does verse 11ff change the theme?

Important thoughts from the reading:

O God, almighty and all wise Father, we pray you to help our friends who are looking for meaning in their lives and in life in general. Our friends see a world running amok and doesn't understand why. Our friends experience sadness and don't see any way to be sure of happiness. Our friends live but are looking for the meaning of life. Help our friends, dear God, to see the answers to their questions in the good news of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Savior. Guide them to look to the cross of Calvary for answers and to the empty tomb of Jesus. Fill our friends with the comfort of the full forgiveness that comes from Jesus. Let them experience the joy of knowing that Jesus lives and wishes to walk with them through life here and accompany them into heaven's glories after this life. Guide them on their walk of life here always secure in your love and care. We ask this for Jesus' sake. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

Obadiah

December 13: Obadiah 1 – 21

- 1) This is a prophecy directed against Edom. Edom came from Esau's relatives and were a constant plague in Israel's side. These are words of judgment against them.
- 2) Edom was guilty of pride. What made them that way?
 - a. Verse 3
 - b. Verse 7
- 3) Why were they also going to be judged? (Verse 10)
- 4) Verse 11 also gives a reason they would be judged.
- 5) Where only will people find refuge?
- 6) What does this prophecy have to say about our land that prides itself in our natural defenses and the billions of dollars we spend on them?

Important thoughts from the reading:

O King most glorious, Savior most humble, accept our songs of praise as the sure echo of the heavenly angels' chorus. Open our eyes to see all that the shepherds of Bethlehem saw, and move our hearts to tell, as the shepherds told, of the events of that holy night. Glory be to God! Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

Jonah

December 14: Jonah 1:1 – 4:1

- 1) Where was Nineveh?
- 2) Give reasons why Jonah might not have wanted to go there?
- 3) Notice how 'religious' the crew of the ship was. What does that say about man?
- 4) How would you characterize what Jonah prayed in the belly of the whale?
- 5) How powerful was the power of the Word?
- 6) Why was Jonah displeased with the power of the Word?
- 7) See 4:1-3. How do we display the same attitudes?
- 8) What lessons do you learn from Jonah?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Dear God of all glory, through eyewitnesses you have revealed to us your Son as the Babe of Bethlehem, as the Savior at the cross, and as the King of heaven. Help us, therefore, to praise him properly on his birthday, to receive him humbly in his grace, and to look for him to come again in glory, for his name's sake. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

Micah

December 15: Micah 1:1 – 4:13

- 1) Micah was also a contemporary of Isaiah. What two cities are pictured?
- 2) What is going to happen to each? The cities mentioned are the cities in the hill country of Judah and the coast.
- 3) 2:1 is significant. What do you do when you go to bed at night? What were these people doing?
- 4) What kind of opposition did Micah run into as he prophesied?
- 5) What does he mean by 2:11?
- 6) Micah contrast himself with the prophets of his day. What does he say about himself? (3:8)
- 7) Chapter 4 is a chapter of hope. What is the Lord's mountain?
- 8) What does beating swords into plowshares mean?
- 9) Before the Lord's mountain is established, what must happen first?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for making this holy night so beautiful. The sparkling light, the joyful carols, and the beaming faces of family and friends cheer my heart every year. With the angels I glorify you, with the shepherds I kneel and adore you. With Mary I treasure up the wonders of your birth, and all year long I will ponder such unfathomable love that made you, the Son of God, a human child--my Savior. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

December 16: Micah 5:1 – 7:20

- 1) As verse one begins things don't look good for Judah, but then what is the promise God gives?
- 2) When would the Messiah come?
- 3) How is the Messiah described?
- 4) As he speaks to Judah he also promises that the Assyrian army would not take them down. Unfortunately that wouldn't happen when Babylon would come along. How would God purify the land?
- 5) Chapter six speaks to Judah and what he requires of them. What does God want from them?
- 6) How did God show he was displeased with the people?
- 7) Chapter seven speaks of the breakdown of Judah and Micah sees it. Even in the middle of all that, what hope does Micah hold onto?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Accept our praise, heavenly Father, for the mystery of your Son becoming flesh. We thank you for the gladness you have provided for all the world and to which we may this day give expression. Allow this joy to fill our hearts and permeate our lives. Let the true joy of this day shine on those in any trouble or adversity. Let the bright beams of heavenly love illumine the paths of those who are walking in darkness or who have fallen into sin. May all, from the greatest to the least, kneel in humble adoration before your Son, our King and newborn Savior. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

Nahum

December 17: Nahum 1:1 – 3:19

- 1) The book starts with God and not with the people of Nineveh. How is God described?
- 2) Which other prophet prophesied to Nineveh?
- 3) Note 1:12. What is the promise to Judah?
- 4) In 2:1 he talks about an attacker of Nineveh. Who would that be?
- 5) How would the city be taken?
- 6) Chapter three takes a look at the utter annihilation of the city. How total was their defeat?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord, you have looked over this world and have seen people in rebellion and great sinfulness. You have seen even those who wished to follow you often go astray. Selfishness, greed, lust, pride, anger, hatred, grief, and fear prevailed. Still, you sent your Son and showered us with your undeserved love. As we celebrate again his holy birth, keep us mindful and thankful of the forgiveness he came to win and the life that is eternal with him. May your name be praised forever. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

Habakkuk

December 18: Habakkuk 1:1 – 3:19

- 1) The prophet is complaining (1-4). What is he having a tough time dealing with?
- 2) God's says (5-11) if you have complaints now, what else would they have to complain about?
- 3) He speaks about the Babylonians. That obviously gives us an idea when this was written. Habakkuk seems to be a contemporary of Jeremiah.
- 4) In chapter two (look at verse 4) who does he say will escape the everlasting wrath of God? By the way, Paul uses this verse in his letter to the Romans.
- 5) In the first half of 2:4 he speaks of the puffed up one and then goes to describe that person in the rest of the chapter. What follows is a whole litany of sins.
- 6) Why is 2:20 an appropriate ending to the chapter?
- 7) Chapter 3 is a song that Habakkuk sings. How is God pictured on this chapter?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for making this holy night so beautiful. The sparkling light, the joyful carols, and the beaming faces of family and friends cheer my heart every year. With the angels I glorify you, with the shepherds I kneel and adore you. With Mary I treasure up the wonders of your birth, and all year long I will ponder such unfathomable love that made you, the Son of God, a human child--my Savior. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

Zephaniah

December 19: Zephaniah 1:1 – 3:20

- 1) Zephaniah is probably a cousin to King Josiah. He prophesied from about 640 to 610 BC. He, too, laid it on the line as far as what was going to happen to Jerusalem. Why?
 - a. Verses 4-6
 - b. Verse 9
- 2) He describes what was going to happen to Jerusalem. How far-ranging would God's judgment be?
- 3) According to chapter two how would judgment be avoided?
- 4) To whom does God compare the judgment that Jerusalem would experience?
- 5) Notice the leadership of the people. How did they contribute to Jerusalem's fall?
- 6) In 3:12 he gives hope. What is that hope?
- 7) To whom is he referring in 3:12ff?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord Jesus Christ, you were born as a human baby in great poverty. Yet hidden behind your humble appearance was the Lord of the universe. Open our eyes today to see precious signs of your love and mercy behind the joy of celebration, the faces of our loved ones, and the food we now receive with thanksgiving. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

Haggai

December 20: Haggai 1:1 – 2:23

- 1) Note the time of the writing. The Children of Israel had returned from the Babylonian Captivity. They were now living under Persia who had defeated the Babylonians. This is the time of Ezra and Nehemiah.
- 2) When the people returned from captivity what did not get done?
- 3) How did the Lord make it known their priorities were not right?
- 4) What must have been truly heart-warming for the Haggai and the leaders of Israel?
- 5) After the temple was rebuilt, how did the people react?
- 6) What did Haggai say to comfort them?
- 7) What can we learn from that?
- 8) Who is Haggai speaking about in 2:20-23?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Great Physician of body and soul, many have been struggling with sickness and pain. If it is your will, let these days pass quickly. Guide the hands of those who care for our loved ones, and give us and them confidence in their skills. If they must continue to suffer, grant them the comfort of knowing that you will allow nothing to happen to them that is not for my eternal good. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

Zechariah

December 21: Zechariah 1:1 – 1:21

- 1) The first verse of the book puts Zechariah as contemporary with which other leaders and prophets of God's people?
- 2) What is he urging the people of Israel to do?
- 3) How did the people react?
- 4) What New Testament Book does this remind you of?
- 5) He saw horns. What did they represent?
- 6) As you come to the end of the chapter, how would the people of Israel been feeling as the chapter closes?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Almighty God, thank you for all the blessings you have given me in the past year. You permit me to enter a new year of grace. Be with me and bless each day. Lead me to trust firmly in you and to dedicate this entire year to you. As I face new opportunities, new challenges, and new problems, guide me to walk in your ways and carry out your will. I ask this for the sake of Jesus, my Savior. To you be honor, glory, and praise. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

December 22: Zechariah 2:1 – 3:10

- 1) The book of Zechariah is a prophetic book. He hears that Jerusalem would be a city without walls. What Jerusalem is he really speaking of?
- 2) What are other hints that Zechariah is speaking of the Church in this chapter?
- 3) Chapter three speaks of Joshua the High Priest. Remember the priests of Israel caused much of their demise. What does this chapter have to say about the clergy?
- 4) Who does 3:8 speak of? What is he going to do?

Important thoughts from the reading:

God our Father, we thank you for this good land of ours, for the blessings of home, school, and church. Bless our government and all those you have placed in authority over us. Direct their decisions so that we may continue to enjoy the blessings of freedom, which we recognize as a gift of your grace. Help us fulfill our responsibilities as citizens. Give us the wisdom to make good and faithful use of our possessions and resources. Be merciful to us. Preserve us from all our enemies. And cause your kingdom to flourish among us. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

December 23: Zechariah 4:1 – 5:11

- 1) Again we can see the imagery used here also used in the book of Revelation.
- 2) What does the golden bowl and the seven lights seem to represent? What brings light and life (olive trees)? Answer seems to be in verse six.
- 3) In verse 11ff the olive trees represent two who are anointed to do the Lord's work. Some have said that this could be the royal and priestly offices. Some Lutherans have said this is the Word and Sacraments.
- 4) What did the flying scroll do?
- 5) What does the measuring basket represent?
- 6) What was done with the sin?
- 7) What is the comfort?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord, at the beginning of this year I need you. My days are in your hands, and only you know if I will live through this year. Be merciful to me and forgive all my sins. Bless my body and soul, my property, and my honor. Renew my knowledge of the promise you made at my baptism, so that I may have childlike assurance throughout this year that you will never forget me. Allow me, to the best of my ability, to live a year of service to you. Let this year be one that draws me closer to you as I serve my Savior Jesus. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

December 24: Zechariah 6:1 – 7:14

- 1) What was the vision? Again, see similarities to Revelation.
- 2) What were the horsemen doing?
- 3) Since the represented the Spirit, what does that say about God?
- 4) Joshua seems to be connected with the Branch. Who is the Branch?
- 5) Chapter seven deals with the fast. What displeased the Lord about it?
- 6) What is true fasting?
- 7) What happened when Israel refused to correct what they were doing?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Dear Lord Jesus, when you walked the streets and lanes of city and country in Palestine you were touched by the handicaps and pains of many afflicted people, young and old. Your love and compassion never fails, and so we are bold to bring our troubles to your attention and to commit them to your wise and tender care. In your mercy heal us, or strengthen us to bear our burdens. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

December 25: Zechariah 8:1 – 8:23

- 1) Zechariah speaks of hope in this chapter. What does that hope consist of?
- 2) The return of the exiles seems to be a type of the what other return of God's people?
- 3) How do people who have, by the grace of God, returned to the Lord act?
- 4) Who will be part of all this?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Dear Lord, as we recognize the old year has passed away and a new year is before us, make us mindful that it is another year of grace in Christ Jesus. Assure us of that new life by permitting your Word to remain in our midst and to dwell richly in our hearts. Increase our faith, Lord, and use our time, treasure, and talents to your glory. Even as we receive your saving grace, give us an untiring, joyous zeal to share it until Christ returns. For his sake hear us. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

December 26: Zechariah 9:1 – 9:17

- 1) God pronounces judgment on the people around Israel. Who are they?
- 2) Why were they judged?
- 3) In the middle of all the turmoil, what does the Lord announce?
- 4) When specifically was this fulfilled?
- 5) What would he bring to the world?
- 6) How is that expressed?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Dear Lord, as we recognize the old year has passed away and a new year is before us, make us mindful that it is another year of grace in Christ Jesus. Assure us of that new life by permitting your Word to remain in our midst and to dwell richly in our hearts. Increase our faith, Lord, and use our time, treasure, and talents to your glory. Even as we receive your saving grace, give us an untiring, joyous zeal to share it until Christ returns. For his sake hear us. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

December 27: Zechariah 10:1 – 11:17

- 1) Why is the Lord reminding Judah that he sends the rain?
- 2) What is missing from Judah?
- 3) What is verse four a reference to?
- 4) The interpretation of chapter eleven is difficult. Many feel this is a description of Israel after the crucifixion. Why are they wailing?
- 5) Why does the interpretation of chapter eleven favor the rejection of Christ and its consequences?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord of glory, as the light of your star once led the wise men to Jesus, so the light of your Word has led us to see Jesus. Let your Word shine in our hearts by your Spirit that each day we see Christ at the center of all we do. With him let us find comfort from sorrows, forgiveness from sins, and rest from turmoil. In his name, cause us to do good to others, to reveal him to the lost, and to praise your holy name. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

December 28: Zechariah 12:1 – 13:9

- 1) How would Millennialists interpret verse three?
- 2) What do verse three and following really mean?
- 3) How do you know?
- 4) What is so interesting about 12:11?
- 5) What does “on that day” really mean?
- 6) Notice again the references that are picked up in the book of Revelation.

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord God give me strength and willingness to say with your Son, "Not my will but your will be done." Make me cheerful and trusting to bear whatever you let happen to me. From your hand I am willing to take the good and the bad, the joy and the sorrow. Keep me from sin, gracious Father, and comfort me with your kind Word. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

December 29: Zechariah 14:1 – 14:21

- 1) Again the prophet speaks in figurative terms. What day is he ultimately speaking about?
- 2) What should we get from these verses about God's control of all things?
- 3) What should we get from these verses as to the love and concern for his people?
- 4) What should we get from these verses when it comes to his justice?
- 5) When the title "Holy to the Lord" is put on all the items, what does that have to say about how we look at all we possess?

Important thoughts from the reading:

O God of peace, I turn aside from an unquiet world, seeking rest for my spirit and light for my thoughts. I bring my work to be sanctified, my wounds to be healed, my sins to be forgiven, my hopes to be renewed. In you through your Son there is perfect harmony. Draw me to yourself, and silence the discords of my wasteful life. Your greatness is beyond my highest praise. Take me out of the loneliness of self, and fill me with the fullness of your peace. Amen

One Year through the Old Testament

Malachi

December 30: Malachi 1:1 – 2:17

- 1) The people of Israel were going through a tough time. They needed assurance of God's love and mercy. What kind of relationship did the God, through the prophet, assure them of as opposed to Edom?
- 2) How did that need to show from Israel to God?
- 3) What did Israel do to God's name?
- 4) What were the priests doing that was wrong?
- 5) In 2:10-16 the Laws of God were disrespected. How so?
- 6) How did it show in marriage?
- 7) What very strong statements does God say about marriage?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Eternal God, you are always the same and your years have no end. In your mercy we close another calendar year. It has been filled with your goodness to us. For this we humbly thank you. It has been filled with our sins, disobedience, and failures. For these we ask your forgiveness and pardon. In the name of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Savior. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

December 31: Malachi 3:1 – 4:6

- 1) Who is the messenger that will come to the Lord's temple?
- 2) How would purification take place?
- 3) What is the attribute that God has as expressed in 3:6?
- 4) How were the people robbing God?
- 5) What is prophesied in 4:1?
- 6) What had to happen before the end came?
- 7) Who is Elijah?
- 8) What did you get from Malachi's book?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Dear Lord, as we recognize the old year has passed away and a new year is before us, make us mindful that it is another year of grace in Christ Jesus. Assure us of that new life by permitting your Word to remain in our midst and to dwell richly in our hearts. Increase our faith, Lord, and use our time, treasure, and talents to your glory. Even as we receive your saving grace, give us an untiring, joyous zeal to share it until Christ returns. For his sake hear us. Amen.

Congratulations you made it!