
SESSION #5

Tips on Reading

The importance of reading is summed up in *2 Timothy 3:15-17*.

ALL SCRIPTURE . . .

Makes one wise unto salvation.

Is profitable for:

- doctrine
- reproof
- correction
- instruction in righteousness

"So that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE:

Steady, consistent diet of the Word of God.

We recommend regular intake of God's Word. Read every day, and cover all the Bible. The inhabitants of Berea (in Greece) are described in Acts as being *"more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, [to determine] whether those things [Paul's preaching] were so (Acts 17:11)."*

There are many different reading plans available. One such plan, the Daily Bible Companion, is structured to take a person through the Bible in a year, reading three portions daily. By doing two readings from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament daily, at the end of the year a person has read the Old Testament once and the New Testament twice.

We can learn a lesson from ancient Israel: they had daily morning and evening sacrifice. They were to begin and end the day with prayer and meditation with God.

TIP # 1: PREPARATION

- Allow Time
- Select a Good Translations
- Be Comfortable

HOW SHOULD WE APPROACH READING THE BIBLE?

If we are to gain what we can from Bible study, we need to approach it with the right attitudes. We need an openness to new ideas. If we approach all ideas with a "fortress mentality" -- thinking that our main job is to defend the walls that make up the fortress of Christianity--we have very little space for growth.

The Bible is a book of strength that has withstood all kinds of attacks during its history. As in all other areas of study, scholars build upon and re-evaluate the work of earlier scholars. We need not fear examining new ideas and evaluating them carefully in the light of all the teachings of the Bible.

We need an attitude of willingness to meditate on what we are learning and to think through for ourselves how our learning can and should be applied in our own lives. To do this, it is usually helpful to share our ideas and interpretations with other Bible students for discussion and evaluation. We can learn from each other.

Bible study is trying work. It is also exhilarating and life changing. Study of the Bible can enrich us as no other study can. As you experience the exhilaration of learning to make your own judgments based on firm principles, the Bible will become alive and powerful in your life. Remember, you are intended to understand this remarkable book and to meet God in its pages.

TIP #2: HOW TO READ

- Read Aloud
- Listen for Echoes
- Ask Yourself Questions
- (Deut. 11:18-19; Joshua 1:8)

BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR READING THE BIBLE

1. Study every passage within its literary context. Literary context includes both a text's immediate setting (the verses around it) and its relationship to the entire book.
2. Recognize that the social, historical, and cultural environment of a biblical passage differs from that of today, and then understand a passage in light of those differences.
3. Translations often reflect the translator's understanding. Therefore, when studying a passage, compare several translations, or versions, to estimate the most likely meaning of a word or phrase.

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4. Interpret any single passage in light of what the author has written elsewhere.
 5. Interpret the Bible as a whole. That is, interpret the Bible in light of the entire message of the Bible.

TIP #3: WHEN YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND

- **Be patient (Isaiah 55:9; Prov. 25:2)**
- **Use Other Translations**
- **Use Study Tools**
- **Seek Qualified Teachers (Acts 8:26-40)**

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER WHEN READING:

1. What is the main subject?
2. Who are the main people?
3. What does it say about God?
4. What does it say about Christ?
5. What is the key or main verse?
6. What is the central lesson?
7. What are the main promises?
8. What are the main commandments/instructions?
9. What example is there to follow?
10. What do I need most in this chapter to apply to my life today?
11. Are there cross references that I can use to develop the theme of the passage or add clarity of understanding?
12. What are the key words and phrases? Do they appear in other sections of the same book as well as other books?
13. Are there any words I should look up to clarify a definition?

Versions of the Bible

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

The attached chart depicts the historical development of the Biblical Text.

RECEIVED TEXT & LATIN TEXT

Two distinct paths were followed in arriving at the modern translations which we have today.

The first path is that followed by the Catholic Church. It is predominately based on the Latin Vulgate translation of the Bible compiled by Jerome in approximately 382 A.D. It has roots in the Septuagint version of the Old Testament, written for the Jews in Alexandria, Egypt.

The second path is the Received Text or Traditional Text. It is derived from Hebrew manuscripts of the Old Testament and Greek manuscripts of the New Testament.

KING JAMES AUTHORIZED VERSION - 1611

The most notable version translated from the Received Text path is the King James Version. It was produced in 1611 and has been one of the most influential versions ever written. It is still one of the most widely used versions today.

WESTCOTT & HORT TEXT -1870

They used Greek manuscripts, coupled with the theory of textual criticism. This resulted in the publication of the 1881 Revised Version.

WHAT IS A LITERAL TRANSLATION?

This refers to a version of the Bible which is translated, as closely as possible, word-for-word directly from the Greek and Hebrew manuscripts.

Examples of such are the King James, Revised, and RSV.

WHAT IS A PARAPHRASED TRANSLATION?

As the name implies, these translations of the Bible are restatements of the text or passages, putting them in different terms.

Examples of such are the Living Bible and the Children's Bible.

When considering which translation to read, we must always keep in mind that we should often consult different translations of the Bible. On this issue, most of us are dependent on scholars who are well versed in Hebrew and Greek. Translators are human, and they, like the rest of us, are not able to come to the Bible free of all preconceived ideas. We all tend to read the Bible in light of the cultural attitudes and practices with which we are familiar and comfortable. This is also true of translators.

We recall from the previous session on Tips on Reading, that it is helpful, when studying any passage in depth, to consult several versions. Most words in any language have more than one meaning. The meaning chosen by the translator will tend to be the one that fits his or her own preconceptions and traditions. Trying to translate so that the meaning is clear, the translator is influenced by his or her own beliefs and understandings.

MODERN TRANSLATIONS

- 1. Revised Standard Version (RSV)**
- 2. New International Version (NIV)**
- 3. New American Standard Version (NASB)**
- 4. New King James Version (NKJV)**
- 5. New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**
- 6. New English Bible (NEB)**

WHICH TRANSLATION IS RIGHT FOR ME?

Each person is different, and as such, not all translations are good for the same person. It is recommended that for reading, a version be selected which is easy and comfortable for the individual. In addition to this, it is desirable to maintain a King James version for use in more detailed study. It provides important linkages to Lexicons and Concordances.

Overview of the Books of the Bible – Southern Exile to Christ

Zephaniah

Author: Zephaniah

Time: 635- 615 B.C.

Summary: Zephaniah prophesied during King Josiah's reign. He was responsible for a great religious reform. This reform followed the wicked reigns of Kings Manasseh and Amon, who led the nation into various forms of idolatry. Zephaniah pronounces inescapable judgments against Jerusalem for their sins and exhorts national repentance. He further speaks of the "*day of the LORD* ", when God will intervene to judge sin.

INTRODUCTION - Chapter 1:1

A WARNING OF IMPENDING JUDGMENT- Chapter 1:2-18

1. The judgment announced - Ch. 1:2-6
2. The judgment defined - Ch. 1:7-13
3. The judgment described - Ch. 1:14-18

AN EXHORTATION TO IMMEDIATE REPENTANCE - 2:1-3:8

1. An invitation to repentance - Ch. 2:1-3
2. A detailed warning of judgment- Ch. 2:4-3:8

A PROMISE OF FUTURE BLESSING - Chapter 3:9-20

1. The promise of conversion - Ch. 3:9-13
2. The promise of restoration - Ch. 3:14-20

Jeremiah

Author: Jeremiah and Baruch

Time: 630-575 B.C.

Summary: Jeremiah warns of the impending military force of Babylon that would destroy Jerusalem and enslave the Jews. He urges Jerusalem to turn from its wicked ways, but there is no response. He further warns of the false prophets who are leading the people astray with deceptive doctrines and falsehoods. He urges the Israelites to submit to the Babylonian authority as the instrument of God's judgment. They do not heed his warnings and the people are carried away to Babylon. He predicts that the captives will return after 70 years to rebuild Jerusalem and the Temple.

INTRODUCTION: THE PROPHET'S CALL- Chapter 1:1-19

Overview of the Books of the Bible - Southern Exile to Christ

PROPHETIC ORACLES AGAINST JERUSALEM AND JUDAH - Chapter 2:1-45:5

1. In the reign of Josiah and Johoiakim - Ch. 2:1 - 20:18
2. Various Periods until Jerusalem's Destruction - Ch. 21:1- 39:18
3. After the Fall of Jerusalem - Ch. 40:1 - 45:5

PROPHECIES AGAINST THE NATIONS - Chapter 46:1 - 51:64

1. Against Egypt- Ch. 46:1-28
2. Against Philistia - Ch. 47:1-7
3. Against Moab - Ch. 48:1-47
4. Against Ammon - Ch. 49:1-6
5. Against Edom- Ch. 49:7-22
6. Against Damascus - Ch. 49:23-27
7. Against Arabia - Ch. 49:28-33
8. Against Elam- Ch. 49:34-39
9. Against Babylon - Ch. 50:1 - 51:64

HISTORICAL APPENDIX - Chapter 52:1-34

1. Judah's Fall and Captivity- Ch. 52:1-30
2. Jehoiachin's liberation - Ch. 52:31-34

Habakkuk

Author: Habakkuk

Time: 620-605 B.C.

Summary: The book begins with Habakkuk complaining of injustice in Judah and his inability to understand God's failure to judge the wicked and morally deprived nation of Babylon. Habakkuk is shown that God's people must continue to trust in His mercy regardless of the circumstances about them. The wicked appear to prosper while the righteous are chastened. However this prosperity of the wicked is only temporary. God will not abandon those who obey and follow His commandments: "the just shall live by faith. " (Cp. Psalm 73)

INTRODUCTION - Ch. 1: 1

THE PROPHET'S COMPLAINT OF UNCHECKED VIOLENCE IN JUDAH - Ch. 1:2-4

THE LORD'S ANSWER: THE CHALDEAN IS HIS INSTRUMENT OF PUNISHMENT- Ch. 1:5-11

A SECOND PROBLEM: THE CHALDEANS ARE MORE WICKED THAN THE JUDEANS - Ch. 1:12 - 2:1

THE LORD'S SECOND ANSWER: THE PURPOSE IS CERTAIN, AND FAITH WILL BE REWARDED - Ch. 2:2-4

FIVE WOES UPON INIQUITY, WHETHER JEWISH OR CHALDEAN - Ch. 2:5-20

A VISION OF DIVINE JUDGMENT - Ch. 3:1-16

THE TRIUMPH OF FAITH - Ch. 3:17-19

Overview of the Books of the Bible - Southern Exile to Christ

Lamentations

Author: Jeremiah

Time: 580 B.C.

Summary: Lamentation means "to express suffering". In this book, Jeremiah expressed his sorrow regarding the fall of Jerusalem and the captivity of the nation at the hands of Nebuchadnezzar's army. The book describes and explains the afflictions brought against the city of Jerusalem as well as surrounding nations who scoff at Jerusalem's affliction. He emphasizes that this is the result of divine judgment for the sins of the people. The book further underlines lessons that Jerusalem should learn from its afflictions, namely the vanity of glory, leadership and pride, in an attempt to overcome them in the future.

THE SUFFERING, RUINED CITY OF ZION - Chapter 1:1-22

1. Wretched condition of devastated Jerusalem - Ch. 1:1-11
2. Lament of the daughter of Jerusalem - Ch. 1:12-22

THE SUFFERING, RUINED HOLY PLACE OF ZION - Chapter 2:1-22

1. God's judgments upon the ramparts and upon his sanctuary- Ch. 2:1-10
2. Lament of the eyewitness of this judgment- Ch. 2:11-19
3. Terrors of this day of God's anger - Ch. 2:20-22

THE SUFFERING REPRESENTATIVE OF SMITTEN ZION - Chapter 3:1-66

1. The sorrows God sent his servant- Ch. 3:1-18
2. The servant's prayer of reassurance - Ch. 3:19-42
3. The servant's prayer for vindication - Ch. 3:43-66

THE SUFFERING PEOPLE OF ZION - Chapter 4:1-22

1. Horrors of the siege, and the sad fate of Zion's nobility- Ch. 4:1-11
2. Causes and climax of Zion's catastrophe - Ch. 4:12-20
3. A prophecy against haughty and gloating Edom - Ch. 4:21-22

SUPPLICATIONS OF PENITENT ZION - Chapter 5:1-22

1. Zion's plea to God to regard her affliction and disgrace - Ch. 5:1-18
2. A final address to the eternal Sovereign - Ch. 5:19-22

Joel

Author: Joel

Time: Uncertain, possibly 830 B.C. or 725 B.C.

Summary: The book of Joel begins by describing a devastating swarm of locusts which cause national disaster to the agriculture of Israel. Joel calls the nation of Judah to a day of repentance due to the Divine Judgment. The last portion of the book is concerned with events associated with the "Day of the Lord". The message illustrated is that if Judah repents, God will richly bless them and forgive them.

Overview of the Books of the Bible - Southern Exile to Christ

THE LOCUST PLAGUE AS THE HARBINGER OF THE DAY OF THE LORD - Chapter 1:2 - 2:17

1. A threefold calamity: locusts, drought, and fires - Ch. 1:2-20
2. The scourge as the forerunner of the judgment day - Ch. 2:1-17

THE AVERTING OF JUDGMENT AND BESTOWAL OF BLESSINGS - Chapter 2:18 - 3:21

1. The blessings in the immediate future - Ch. 2:18-27
2. The outpouring of the divine Spirit- Ch. 2:28-32
3. Judgment upon the nations - Ch. 3:1-16
4. The blessings on God's people - Ch. 3:17-21

Daniel

Author: Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar

Time: 605-535 B.C.

Summary: The book of Daniel predicts the destiny of two opposing powers: The Kingdom of Men and The Kingdom of God, stressing that *"The most high rules in the kingdom of men"*. Daniel's prophecies generally do not deal with Israel as much as with the nations that control Israel. The book of Daniel contains prophecies that span the time from Daniel's day until the coming Kingdom Age.

THE UNIVERSAL SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD - AS REVEALED THROUGH PERSONAL EXPERIENCE - Chapter 1: 1- 6:28

1. Human Learning Judged - Ch. 1:1-21
2. Human Philosophy Judged - Ch. 2:1-49
3. Human Worship Judged - Ch. 3:1-30
4. Human Pride Judged - Ch. 4:1-37
5. Human Impiety Judged - Ch. 5:1-31
6. Human Oppression Judged - Ch. 6:1-28

THE UNIVERSAL SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD - AS REVEALED BY PROPHETIC REVELATION - Ch.7:1- 12:13

1. Judgment on the Western Dominion - Ch. 7:1-28
2. Judgment on the Eastern Dominion - Ch. 8:1-27
3. Judgment on Israel After the Flesh - Ch. 9:1-27
4. Judgment on Israel After the Spirit - Ch. 10:1-21
5. Judgment on the Oppressors of the Land - Ch. 11:1-45
6. Judgment on the Oppressors of the People - Ch. 12:1-13

Overview of the Books of the Bible - Southern Exile to Christ

Ezekiel

Author: Ezekiel

Time: 593-560 B.C.

Summary: This book records the activity of the prophet Ezekiel during the exile in Babylon. His message was directed to fellow captives and to Jews still present in Palestine. Both groups refuse to listen and remain unwilling to accept the rule of Babylon. Ezekiel proclaimed good news to the exiles that Israel, after being chastened, would be restored and God's Kingdom would rise. This yet future Kingdom will last forever and God's people will never again be cast out.

PROPHECIES AGAINST JUDAH AND JERUSALEM - Chapter 1:1 - 24:27

1. Introduction: The call of Ezekiel - Ch. 1:1 - 3:27
2. Overthrow of city and state predicted - Ch. 4:1 - 7:27
3. The sin and fate of Jerusalem - Ch. 8:1 - 11:25
4. Moral necessity of the captivity- Ch. 12:1 -19:14
5. Israel's coming downfall inevitable and necessary- Ch. 20:1 - 24:27

ORACLES AGAINST FOREIGN NATIONS: THE UNIVERSAL SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD -

Chapter 25:1 - 32:32

1. Ammon- Ch. 25:1-7
2. Moab - Ch. 25:8-11
3. Edom- Ch. 25:12-14
4. Philistines - Ch. 25:15-17
5. Tyre - Ch. 26:1 - 28:19
6. Sidon - Ch. 28:20-26
7. Egypt- Ch. 29:1 - 32:32

PROPHECIES OF THE RESTITUTION OF ISRAEL - Chapter 33:1 - 39:29

1. The prophet: His function in preparation for the new age - Ch. 33:1-33
2. The royal house: The selfish shepherds of Israel and the Good Shepherd - Ch. 34:1-31
3. The land: Israel to be restored and made fruitful - Ch. 35:1 - 36:38
4. The people: Resurrection of the dry bones of Israel; reunion of Judah and Israel - Ch. 37:1-28
5. Peace: The Lord to defend Israel against Gog's invasion - Ch. 38:1 - 39:29

VISION OF THE RESTORED COMMUNITY: THE NEW TEMPLE AND THE NEW LAW -

Chapter 40:1 - 48:35

1. Description of the new Temple - Ch. 40:1 - 43:27
2. A new service of worship with an ideal ministry and sacrificial system - Ch. 44:1-46:24
3. Israel reorganized according to tribal divisions - Ch. 47:1 - 48:35

Overview of the Books of the Bible - Southern Exile to Christ

Obadiah

Author: Obadiah

Time: 585-565 B.C.

Summary: Obadiah, whose name means "servant of Yahweh," was a prophet who pronounced judgment upon the nation of Edom for its antagonism against Israel. Edom is the nation that is descended from Esau, the twin brother of Jacob (Israel). Edom was to be punished for the violence against Israel they committed when invading the land.

TITLE AND INTRODUCTIONS - Verse 1

JUDGMENT AND EDOM- Verse 2-14

THE DAY OF THE LORD - Verses 15-21

Ezra

Author: Ezra

Time: 538-516 B.C.

Summary: In general, Ezra covers the events of the Jews returning from the Babylonian captivity. The decline of Babylon and its eventual overthrow by the Persians expedited this returning to Jerusalem. The Jews are numbered and are allowed to return to Judah to rebuild the Temple. Samaritan assistance is rejected and their opposition is a contributing factor to the slow progress of the Temple construction. Despite the delays, the Temple is completed and dedicated during this period.

THE EXILES' RETURN FROM BABYLON - Chapter 1:1 - 2:70

1. The decree of Cyrus - Ch. 1:1-4
2. Preparations for the journey- Ch. 1:5-11
3. Those who returned - Ch. 2:1-70

TEMPLE BUILDING BEGINS - Chapter 3:1 - 4:24

1. The altar and the foundation- Ch. 3:1-13
2. Opposition to the work- Ch. 4:1-24

THE BUILDING COMPLETED - Chapter 5:1- 6:22

1. Work resumed - Ch. 5:1-5
2. Tattenai's letter to Darius - Ch. 5:6-17
3. Decrees of Cyrus and Darius - Ch. 6:1-12
4. The Temple finished - Ch. 6:13-22

EZRA'S JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM - Chapter 7:1 - 8:36

1. Ezra introduced - Ch. 7:1-10
2. Letter of Artaxerxes to Ezra - Ch. 7:11-28
3. The journey to Jerusalem - Ch. 8:1-36

Overview of the Books of the Bible - Southern Exile to Christ

THE GREAT REFORMATION - Chapter 9:1 -10:44

1. The tragic report and Ezra's prayer - Ch. 9:1-15
2. The abandonment of mixed marriages - Ch. 10:1-17
3. List of those with foreign wives - Ch. 10:18-44

Nehemiah

Author: Ezra and Nehemiah

Time: 500-460 B.C.

Summary: The book of Nehemiah begins with Nehemiah returning from Babylon as Governor of Jerusalem. He plans and oversees the rebuilding of the city wall despite discouraging opposition and disunity within the Jewish population. The wall is completed and more exiles are returned and registered as Jewish citizens. Nehemiah's dedication to God drives him to make several religious reforms. A public reading of the Law and arrangements for worship are among these reforms.

NEHEMIAH'S ARRIVAL IN JERUSALEM - Chapter 1:1 - 2:20

1. Tragic news from Jerusalem, and Nehemiah's prayer - Ch. 1:1-11
2. The granting of Nehemiah's request- Ch. 2:1-8
3. Nehemiah's survey of the walls, and his report - Ch. 2:9-20

THE BUILDING OF THE WALL - Chapter 3:1 - 7:4

1. The workmen and their tasks - Ch. 3:1-32
2. The opposition of enemies - Ch. 4:1-23
3. Reforms of Nehemiah as governor- Ch. 5:1-19
4. The wall finished despite intrigues - Ch. 6:1- 7:4

CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS REFORMS IN JERUSALEM - Chapter 7:5 -10:39

1. List of Jews who returned with Zerubbabel - Ch. 7:5-73
2. The reading and observance of God's Law - Ch. 8:1-18
3. A public confession and covenant- Ch. 9:1-10:39

LISTS OF INHABITANTS OF JUDAH AND JERUSALEM - Chapter 11:1 - 12:26

DEDICATION OF WALLS AND ORGANIZATION OF TEMPLE SERVICES -
Chapter 12:27-47

NEHEMIAH'S FINAL REFORMS - Chapter 13:1-31

Overview of the Books of the Bible - Southern Exile to Christ

Esther

Author: Not known for certain

Time: 510 B.C.

Summary: Esther is an historical book, written during the period of the captivity. It records the plot of Haman, the Prime Minister to the Persian king, to exterminate the Jewish race. This plot is foiled by Esther, the Queen of Persia, who was a Jew. This book gives us the origin of the Feast of Purim.

Vashti divorced- Chapter 1:1-22

Esther made queen - Chapter 2:1-23

Haman's plot against the Jews - Chapter 3:1-15

Esther's decision - Chapter 4:1-17

Esther's first banquet- Chapter 5:1-14

Haman humiliated before Mordecai - Chapter 6:1-14

Esther's second banquet- Chapter 7:1-10

Mordecai's counterdecree - Chapter 8:1-17

The Jews victorious, and Purim instituted - Chapter 9:1 -10:3

Haggai

Author: Haggai

Time: 520-505 B.C.

Summary: Haggai writes to the few Jews who have returned to Judah from the captivity in Babylon. He exhorts them to "*consider their ways*" and to complete the Temple whose foundation had been laid 18 years before. The people responded and the Temple was completed in 516 B.C. Haggai further pronounces that pagan empires will be overthrown by God, and Judah will be elevated during the time of the Messiah.

A Message To Arouse - Chapter 1:1-11

A Message To Commend - Chapter 1:12-15

A Message To Encourage - Chapter 2:1-9

A Message To Confirm - Chapter 2:10-19

A Message To Assure - Chapter 2:20-23

Overview of the Books of the Bible - Southern Exile to Christ

Zechariah

Author: Zechariah

Time: 520-490 B.C.

Summary: Zechariah was a younger contemporary of Haggai. He also encouraged the people to rebuild the Temple. Like Daniel and Revelation, this book contains Apocalyptic visions. It contains detailed references to the coming Messiah. The book concludes with descriptions of the enemies of Jerusalem being judged and of the future glory of God's kingdom.

INTRODUCTION: THE CALL TO REPENT - Chapter 1:1-6

THE NIGHT VISIONS OF ZECHARIAH - Chapter 1:7 - 6:15

1. Vision of the horns and riders - Ch. 1:7-17
2. Vision of the horns and artisans - Ch. 1:18-21
3. Vision of the surveyor- Ch. 2:1-13
4. Vision of Joshua the high priest- Ch. 3:1-10
5. Vision of the golden lamp stand - Ch. 4:1-14
6. Vision of the flying roll - Ch. 5:1-4
7. Vision of the woman in the ephah - Ch. 5:5-11
8. Vision of the chariots - Ch. 6:1-8

THE CROWNING OF JOSHUA - Chapter 6:9-15

QUESTIONS CONCERNING FASTING - Chapter 7:1 - 8:23

1. The question- Ch. 7:1-3
2. The lesson from history- Ch. 7:4-14
3. God's purpose of blessing for Israel - Ch. 8:1-23

THE FUTURE OF THE NATIONS, ISRAEL, AND MESSIAH'S KINGDOM - Chapter 9:1 -14:21

1. The first burden - Ch. 9:1-11:17
2. The second burden - Ch. 12:1-14:21

Malachi

Author: Malachi

Time: 500-475 B.C.

Summary: Malachi's message comes to the people in a time of great spiritual decline. It is approximately eighty years after the rebuilding of the temple and the promises of the coming Messiah have yet to be realized. As a result, the people have become lax in their attitude toward God and worship. Malachi states that their sacrifices are unacceptable to God, husbands are unfaithful, and the priests have neglected God's covenants.

An unholy nation - Chapter 1:1-14

A faithless priesthood - Chapter 2:1-10

A treacherous people - Chapter 2:11-16

A nation of robbers - Chapter 2:17 - 3:15

A faithful remnant to be vindicated - Chapter 3:16 - 4:6

Study Tools (Part 2)

BIBLE DICTIONARIES

- Unger's Bible Dictionary
- Smith's Bible Dictionary

BIBLE ATLASES

- The Macmillan Bible Atlas
- The Oxford Bible Atlas

HISTORY

- World History (Any good history book)
- Old Testament Bible History - Edersheim
- The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah - Edersheim
- Josephus

COMMENTARIES

- Barnes' O.T. & N.T.
- Speaker's
- Pulpit
- Eerdman's Bible Handbook
- Halley's Bible Handbook

Study Tools (Part 2)

GENERAL

- Harper's Encyclopedia of Bible Life
- Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words
- Nave's Topical Bible
- Treasury of Scriptural Knowledge
- Robertson's "Harmony of the Gospels", Harper-Row

A WORD OF WARNING

Commentaries, dictionaries, encyclopedias, etc. are the work of uninspired men commenting about inspired scripture passages. Such reference books can be useful, but read carefully with an eye toward skepticism. Never place total confidence in the writings of uninspired men. Use Scripture to verify or reject their conclusions.

Workshop – Study Tools part 2

In the first four sessions you have learned to apply the following four techniques to improve your Bible Reading:

- 1 Using the Bible to Interpret Itself
- 2 Cross references
- 3 Concordances
- 4 Bible Charts
- 5 Bible Dictionary

In this workshop you will have opportunity to apply each of these techniques to improve your understanding of Isaiah 14. To reduce time - focus on verse 4-27.

For each question decide what technique/tool you will use and then try to use it to answer the following questions – sometimes more than one technique is possible:

	Technique(s): 1,2,3,4,5	Answer
When was this book written?		
To whom was it written?		
What was the status of Israel?		
What was the major empire at the time Isaiah was writing?		

<p>V4... who is the subject of the prophecy?</p>		
<p>List all the general and specific terms used in this chapter to refer to the subject you identified above:</p>		
<p>V12...do a mini-study on Lucifer – list out what you can prove from the Bible.</p>		
<p>Does anyone in the Bible quote anything from this chapter?</p> <p>If so, what do we learn about these quote(s)?</p>		

God's purpose against Assyria, and Palestina

ISAIAH 15

heart, ^aI will ascend into heaven, ^bI will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon ^cthe mount of the congregation, in ^dthe sides of the north:

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

15 Yet ^ethou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

16 They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;

17 That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that ^fopened not the house of his prisoners?

18 All the kings of the nations, even all of them, lie in glory, every one in his own house.

19 But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcase trodden under feet.

20 ^gThou shalt not be joined with them in burial, because thou hast destroyed thy land, and slain thy people: ^hthe seed of evildoers shall never be renowned.

21 Prepare slaughter for his children ⁱfor the iniquity of their fathers; ^jthat they do not rise, nor possess the land, nor fill the face of the world with cities.

22 For I will rise up against them, saith the LORD of hosts, and cut off from Babylon the name, and ^kremnant, and son, and nephew, saith the LORD.

23 I will also make it a possession for the bittern, and pools of water: and I will sweep it with the besom of destruction, saith the LORD of hosts.

24 ¶ The LORD of hosts hath

sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand:

25 ^eThat I will break the Assyrian in my land, and upon my mountains tread him under foot: then shall his yoke depart from off them, and ^fhis burden depart from off their shoulders.

26 This is the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth: and this is the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations.

27 For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?

28 In the year that ^hking Ahaz died was this ⁱburden.

29 ¶ Rejoice not thou, whole ^jPalestina, because the rod of him that smote thee is broken: for out of the serpent's root shall come forth a ^kcockatrice, and his fruit shall be a fiery flying serpent.

30 And the firstborn of the poor shall feed, and the needy shall lie down in safety: and I will kill thy root with famine, and he shall slay thy remnant.

31 Howl, O gate; cry, O city; thou, whole Palestina, art dissolved: for there shall come from the north a smoke, and ^lnone shall be alone in his ^mappointed times.

32 What shall one then answer the messengers of the nation? That ⁿthe LORD hath founded Zion, and ^othe poor of his people shall ^ptrust in it.

CHAPTER 15

THE ^qburden of ^rMoab. Because ^sin the night Ar of Moab is laid waste, and ^tbrought to silence; because in the night Kir of Moab is laid waste, and ^ubrought to silence;

2 He is gone up to ^vBá'jith, and to ^wDi-bön, the high places,

^a Mt. 11. 23.
^b Dan. 8. 10.

^c ch. 2. 2.
^d Ps. 48. 2.
^e ch. 37. 36.

^f ch. 10. 27.

^g Ob. 4.
^h Mt. 11. 23.

ⁱ Or, did not let his prisoners loose home-ward?
^j 2 Ki. 16. 20.
^k ch. 13. 1.
^l ver. 31.
^m Or, adder.

ⁿ Ecc. 6. 3.

^o Ps. 21. 10.

^p Or, he shall not be alone.

^q Or, assemblies.

^r Ex. 20. 5.

^s Ps. 140. 10.

^t Ps. 87. 1. 5.

^u ch. 10. 2.

^v Zech. 11. 7. 11.

^w Or, betake themselves unto it.

^x Jer. 51. 62.

^y ch. 13. 1.

^z 1 Sa. 14. 47.

^{aa} Jer. 48. 1-47.

^{ab} Ezek. 25. 8-11.

^{ac} Or, cut off.

^{ad} Jer. 48. 13.

^{ae} Nu. 21. 30.

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