

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

07-02-2023 // WEEK 26 NOTES

This past week, you've finished **Zechariah 8 - Psalms 31**. Here are a few highlights:

- **The book of Zechariah** deals with oracles (the word means a burden, something the prophet deeply felt from God that needed to be spoken) and visions - supernatural visions from God to the prophet.
- **Zechariah Chapters 9-14** address the oracles about judgment on Judah's false shepherds/bad leaders (there's that theme again!), the restoration of the flock and the ultimate restoration of Jerusalem to Godly and good leaders.

Two great verses I love from Zechariah are **Zechariah 9:9**: the **prophecy of Messiah entering Jerusalem on a donkey**. This was fulfilled in Jesus 500+ years later in specificity. Odds of this actually happening are infinitesimal! Also, **Zechariah 9:12**: that we are **prisoners of hope** and God restores twofold what's been stolen from us.

- **The book of Malachi**: Malachi was written around 420 BC. This is the last book of the OT in actuality and chronologically. The prophet addresses the following themes:
 1. Bad and godless priests
 2. The lack of faith among the people toward one another
 3. Divorce happening regularly among God's people, and often the Israelites would marry foreign wives
 4. Not practicing the tithe
 5. Complaining to God that he was unjust.
- Malachi ends with **chapter 4** giving **great promises about a coming of one who will introduce the redeemer** who has healing on his wings. The person is seen by many as John the Baptist,

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

introduced in **Luke's gospel**. He is Jesus's cousin, born six months before Jesus.

- **The Psalms:** The psalms were written mostly by David. A few have unknown authors. Some are from the sons of Korah. One from Moses (**Psalms 90**). **These psalms are Israel's worship book.** They were meant to be sung, not read. But they are powerful to read. You will see lament, praise, anger, joy, and hope in all of them.

Read them for your personal situations. They will speak to you, for they often come from someone's heart (most often King David) and their heart to figure out what God is doing in their life. It's fairly difficult to encapsulate each psalm, for each one is addressing something different. I think my best way of helping you all with this part of our reading is to do this: give you a **general overview**:

Traditionally, the **psalms have been divided into five books**. Its different authors are identified at the top of the psalm, unless it's not known. So, here is what we've gone through until now:

- **Book 1 (Psalms 1-31)**

Psalms 1-2 have not noted authorship but provide an introduction: the division in life of the righteous and the wicked. The righteous soak in the truth of God's law, the wicked do not. **Book 1 is almost entirely made up of the psalms of David.** Only **Psalms 10** notes a Davidic authorship (with some question about **Psalms 9 and 33**). Most often, these psalms come from a heart in distress and difficulty. Many of these have to do with a betrayal, a trap set for him, and a confidence that God would not only deliver him but take care of his enemies. You also see words about how to live and worship with integrity in **Psalms 14-15, 19, 24 and 26.**

I hope your journey through God's Word has been helpful and meaningful. As always, I'm available for questions.

David