

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

06-18-2023 // WEEK 24 NOTES

This past week, you've finished **Ezekiel 37 - 48, Hosea, and Joel**. Here are a few highlights:

- **Ezekiel Chapter 37:** The dry bones analogy/vision. Many think this has to do with the return of Israel to the land one day and a spiritual revival that will break out among the Jews. They believe this because it is stated right before **chapters 38-39**.
- **Chapters 38 - 39:** The nations that will one day surround Israel and attack it. The nations, interestingly, are the ones surrounding Israel today with much hostility against it. **These are end times chapters.** "In the latter days" is a phrase repeatedly mentioned. God comes to the rescue of Israel supernaturally. Many think this is a part of the end times teaching of the destruction of the antichrist and the false prophet and Jesus's 2nd Coming.
- **Chapters 40 - 48:** These are some of the most interesting and difficult chapters in all the Bible. **Bottom line: they are about the reconstruction of the new Jerusalem and the reestablishment of the boundaries of Israel.** Many think this is a post 2nd Coming, millennial view of Jesus's return. The new Jerusalem that has "come down" from heaven. Streams of living water flowing from the throne (read **John 7** through this filter) to all the nations of the earth. Though difficult to understand, it's fascinating as you study end times narratives.
- **Hosea Chapters 1-3:** This is a story of Hosea commanded by God to marry Gomer. They have one child together. Then the insinuation is that she has two other children by another man. She wanders. Ends up on an auction block as a prostitute. Yet Hosea, out of deep, unconditional love, seeks her out, purchases her, and brings her back home as his bride. It's a beautiful picture of God pursuing Israel, the northern kingdom, and all its "whorings", and bringing her back to himself because of his love for his bride. It's a fabulous story. I hope you have all read it and put yourself in the place of Gomer, the faithful wife turned prostitute, for that is all of us. **God is pursuing us in Jesus. Purchasing us with the price of the cross. All because of love.**

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- **Chapters 4 - 14:** A repeated prophecy of God's judgment on Israel. The bride wandered. All its sins. As you read through it, **note the many sins of Israel**. It's relevant for today. **Chapter 12** is about Judah, looking into the future when she becomes a faithless bride as well, and God restoring her as well.

Hosea is mostly written to the **northern kingdom** and its sin. Hosea, the prophet, was called to speak truth to it (and to Judah and its future sin as well). It's eerily similar to what is surrounding us today. It's why the Bible is so relevant.

- **Joel Chapter 1 - 3:** Prophesying to the **southern kingdom**, the Babylonians would come like locusts on the land, God's instrument of his judgment. Note "**the day of the Lord**" mentioned here and many other places in prophetic literature. It refers to the present day when God will judge, but in other cases the future "day" when God will restore Israel and the entire world to the original intent of **Genesis 1-2**. In **chapter 2** you also see God's judgment against the evil nations, like Babylon and Assyria, whom he used as his instrument of judgment against Israel. You also see in **chapters 2-3** God's promise of restoration. And note **2:28 and following**, a prophecy that Peter used in **Acts 2** at Pentecost, that when the Holy Spirit is poured out, young and older men and women will see visions and dream dreams. It's a book of judgment and great hope "in the day of the Lord."

I hope the reading is meaningful. I know that you are biting off a lot daily now, but stay on top of it all as best you can. The story continues.

David