

One Year Bible – Week 40

Summary: Ephesians / Philippians Reading

The book of Ephesians finishes with two significant sections: one on Christian living – wives and husbands, subordinates and superiors; and the other a section alluding to spiritual warfare.

The book of Philippians is considered by many as the book of encouragement. Paul writes the book of Philippians while imprisoned in Rome. His message is one of joy and gratitude in the midst of suffering, which was likely increasingly hostile for him and others in Rome.

Summary: Isaiah / Jeremiah Reading

The final two sections of Isaiah are a hope in final deliverance through the suffering servant (chapters 49-55) and a glimpse into the future and final fulfillment and peace (chapters 56-66).

The prophet Jeremiah came a short time after Isaiah as the final prophet to the free kingdom of Judah. For several years Jeremiah spoke warning to Judah that God would give them over to captivity to the looming Babylonian empire which in fact happened. The span of kings during Jeremiah's time is recorded in 2Kings 23-25 or 2Chronicles 34-36.

Things to Look For and Questions to Ponder as You Read:

- *OT* – The book of Isaiah contains one of the most profound prophecies about Jesus in all of the Bible. Isaiah 52:13-53:12 talks of the suffering servant. Read these verses and take note of each similarity to Jesus. It is significant to note that the book of Isaiah was written roughly about 700 years before Christ. God knew his plan well before it would come to pass. This prophecy about Jesus gives us confidence putting our faith in the God of the Bible – for he foretold the future long before Christ came to earth in human form. – *Sept 27*
- *NT* – The forces of evil are active in this world to separate people from God. Ephesians 6:10-18 gives an illustration for believers to defend oneself against such forces of evil. – *Sept 28*

Small Group Questions:

- 1) *OT* – Read Isaiah 52:13-53:12. This passage is one of four “servant songs” in Isaiah. The New Testament attributes these passages to talking about Jesus (see Acts 8:32-34; 1Pe 2:22-23). From this servant song, how would you explain Jesus' death and resurrection to

someone who did not know? What words would you? What verses would you identify as of key importance? Does anything in this servant song illuminate more to you about Jesus? What and why? – *Sept 27*

- 2) *NT* – Silently, each person read Eph 5:1-21 and answer this question: Are there any areas of life conduct on this list that are difficult for you to follow? Then among the group answer these two questions: What makes it difficult to live up to this description? What in this passage provides encouragement to live as Paul describes? – *Sept 27*
- 3) *OT* – Read Isaiah 61:1-2 and Luke 4:14-21. As you can see Jesus used these words to describe himself and his mission on earth. Based on this passage, how would you summarize Jesus' mission? What do these words tell us about the character of God? – *Sept 30*
- 4) *OT* – Read Jer 2:13. How would you reword the two sins of the people of Israel? What would these sins look like in our lives today if we were to succumb to them? – *Oct 3*
- 5) *NT* – Read the following passages in the book of Philippians: 1:20-21, 2:3-5; 3:7-10, 17-20; 4:4-7. How would you describe the life of a believer which Paul is describing throughout the book of Philippians? How well do you think the church in general measures up to this description? You as an individual? What in these descriptions from Paul caught your attention as an area where God may want to work in your life? Memorize this verse or verses this week.

Journal the Psalms this week:

Read Psalm 74:12-17. What would you say is the Psalmist focusing on in these verses? Why would the Psalmist speak in this way; what is being communicated here? If you were to write some verses in a similar fashion, what would you say? Journal your verses. – *Oct 2*

Reading Schedule:

Is = Isaiah / Jer = Jeremiah / Eph = Ephesians / Php = Philippians /
Ps = Psalms / Pr = Proverbs



Sept 27 – Is 51:1-53:12 / Eph 5:1-33 / Ps 69:19-36 / Pr 24:7
Sept 28 – Is 54:1-57:13 / Eph 6:1-24 / Ps 70:1-5 / Pr 24:8
Sept 29 – Is 57:14-59:21 / Php 1:1-26 / Ps 71:1-24 / Pr 24:9-10
Sept 30 – Is 60:1-62:5 / Php 1:27-2:18 / Ps 72:1-20 / Pr 24:11-12
Oct 1 – Is 62:6-65:25 / Php 2:19-3:4a / Ps 73:1-28 / Pr 24:13-14
Oct 2 – Is 66:1-24 / Php 3:4b-21 / Ps 74:1-23 / Pr 24:15-16
Oct 3 – Jer 1:1-2:30 / Php 4:1-23 / Ps 75:1-10 / Pr 24:17-20