

ZECHARIAH

Zechariah lived at a time when the exiles had returned from Babylon to rebuild the temple, he was called by God to give hope to His people by revealing his plan for future deliverance through the Messiah.

1 JOHN

This letter was written by the apostle John to reassure Christians in their faith and to counter false teachings.

2 JOHN

In this letter John emphasizes the basics of following Christ—truth and love. He warns against false teachers.

3 JOHN

John writes to Gaius to thank him for his hospitality and encourage him in his Christian life.

JUDE

Jude is a brother of Jesus and James - he writes this letter to remind the church of the need for constant vigilance, to keep strong in the faith and to oppose heresy.

Revelation - is too big a topic for this little space, we will look at it next month!!

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365

Bible Reading Challenge

**WHAT IS IN THE BIBLE READINGS
FOR SEPTEMBER?**

HOSEA

Hosea was a prophet to the Northern Kingdom of Israel. His message pivots around his unfortunate marriage to Gomer. In fact this was immeasurably deepened by the painful experience he underwent in his married life. Gomer, who is unfaithful to Hosea symbolised the unfaithfulness of Israel to God. Just as Hosea could not give up his wife forever, so God could not renounce Israel forever.

JOEL

Joel, son of Pethuel was a native of Judah. He was well educated and a gifted poet. The book is in two parts; the first describes a locust plague and a drought whilst the second is more apocalyptic. Joel sees the judgement of God in both the locust

plague and the drought. The Lord promises the people who repent, whether they are Jewish or non—Jewish ultimate deliverance from disaster.

AMOS

When God called Amos to be a prophet he was a shepherd. He was sent to announce judgement on the nation of Israel because of their increased religious and moral corruption at a time of prosperity. They had forgotten God's past punishments and unfaithfulness.

OBADIAH

Very little is known about Obadiah whose name means 'servant' (or worshipper) of the Lord. The theme of this, the shortest book of the Old Testament is that Edom, proud over her own security, has gloated over Israel's devastation by foreign powers. Because of her participation in that disaster, she herself will be destroyed, but Mount Zion and Israel will be delivered and God's kingdom will triumph.

JONAH

Jonah is a prophet who was called by God to go to Ninevah in the great but evil empire of Assyria. This book tells the story of Jonah's flight and how God stopped him and turned him around. It is a profound illustration of God's mercy and grace. No one deserved God's favour less than the people of Nineveh, but Jonah knew the power of God's message, that they would respond and be spared God's judgement.

MICAH

Micah was written to warn God's people that judgement is coming and to offer pardon to all who repent

Micah presents the true picture of God who hates sin and loves the sinner.

NAHUM

Nahum was called by God to pronounce his judgement on Assyria and to comfort Judah with this truth. His message is that disobedience, rebellion and injustice will not prevail but will be punished severely by a righteous and holy God, who rules over all the earth.

HABAKKUK

Habakkuk was a man who sought answers. Troubled by what he observed he asked difficult questions. Habakkuk saw a dying world and it broke his heart. He asked why there is evil in the world and why the wicked seemed always win. He boldly and confidently took his complaint directly to God who answered with an avalanche of proof and prediction.

ZEPHANIAH

Zephaniah's message was that of certain judgement and horrible punishment for all who would defy the Lord. God's awful wrath would sweep away everything in the land and destroy it. He was sent to shake the people of Judah out of their complacency and urge them to return to God.

HAGGAI

Haggai was asked by God to call the people to complete the rebuilding of the Temple which had been destroyed by the Babylonians.