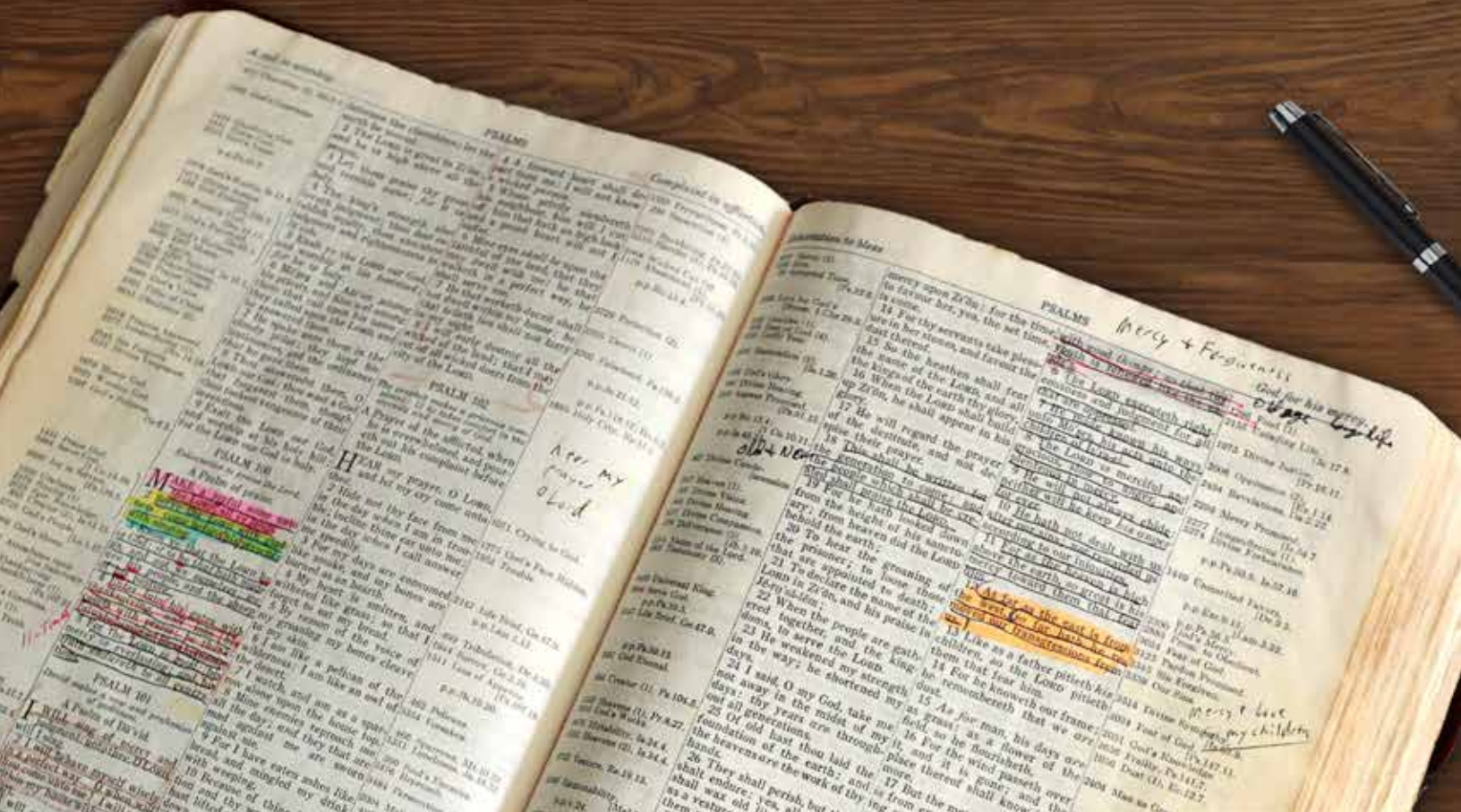


A YEAR IN THE BIBLE

JULY



July

Many times the word “prophecy” brings to mind a sort of psychic pronouncement of a future event. There are prophecies in the Bible that reflect that understanding, but people are better served if they will consider a “prophecy” as interpretation through the eyes of God. Simply put, a prophecy works to give God’s meaning to life events. A prophet then, was an individual who helped the people to address issues through the wisdom and mercy given by God.

It is actually how Sunday morning services are designed at St. Luke’s. The preparation begins with an issue or a problem that people face. Then the question is asked, *what does God say about this issue?* Scripture is chosen that reflects God’s desire for people and then of course, what God would have people to do in light of the problem. As you continue your readings, you

can deepen your faith and understanding by asking the question, *what is being said through this text?* When you face problems in life, ask yourself a different question, *where in the Bible did God give insight for the issue that is troubling me* and *what would God say to me in this moment?*

When you read the books of the prophets there is a general rule of thumb to help you understand what the people were going through at any given moment. Simply, if the prophet was speaking harshly to the people - then they were at a time where they were doing well (and neglecting the needs of the poor.) When the prophet spoke gently to the people, then they were facing hardships, persecution, or loss.

Memory Verse

*For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His
name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)*

Helpful Hints:

We encourage you to begin your Bible reading time by reciting the month’s memory verse and then the daily Bible reading. Reflect on the reading - did it raise questions or confusion; did it inspire you or warm your heart? Then, to live in a spirit of gratitude, write down three things for which you’re grateful. Finally, close your devotional time in prayer. While you might not feel the same way each day, the ongoing discipline of having a daily devotional time will have lasting impact on your life and certainly deepen your relationship with God.

Date Scripture	Reflections on the Scripture What surprised or inspired you? What questions do you have?	Three things for which I'm thankful.
July 1 Job 38-42 Psalms 150		

Proverbs Synopsis

This book is part of a collection known as The Wisdom Literature, which also includes Job and Ecclesiastes. It is often thought that King Solomon wrote the book of Proverbs. Solomon Proverbs is a collection of short sayings and poems that train people to make good choices for every-day living. Proverbs challenges the reader to be mindful of God and the collective wisdom of righteous people. Wisdom is a gift of God that will lead to a well-lived life.

July 2 Proverbs 1-3 Psalms 1		
July 3 Proverbs 4-7 Psalms 2		
July 4 Proverbs 8-12 Psalms 3		
July 5 Proverbs 13-16 Psalms 4		
July 6 Proverbs 17-20 Psalms 5		

Date Scripture	Reflections on the Scripture What surprised or inspired you? What questions do you have?	Three things for which I'm thankful.
July 7 Proverbs 21-24 Psalms 6		
July 8 Proverbs 25-28 Psalms 7		
July 9 Proverbs 29-31 Psalms 8		

Ecclesiastes Synopsis

We sometimes live as if tomorrow is guaranteed. It is not of course, and we ask questions such as, “Why do bad things happen to good people?” In the book of Ecclesiastes, we sample the wisdom of the “teacher” who is looking back over his life and sharing what he has learned, perhaps in the hope that tomorrow’s generations will be able to avoid the mistakes he has experienced. Written about 300 years before the birth of Christ, the teacher writes that all life is fleeting and unpredictable. There is a season for everything in life, and if we are wise, we will discover it is not all about pleasure and materialism. Instead, real meaning is found when we trust in God.

July 10 Ecclesiastes 1-4 Psalms 9		
July 11 Ecclesiastes 5-8 Psalms 10		

Date Scripture	Reflections on the Scripture What surprised or inspired you? What questions do you have?	Three things for which I'm thankful.
July 12 Ecclesiastes 9-12 Psalms 11		

Song of Solomon Synopsis

The Song of Solomon, also known as the “Song of Songs” or “Canticles,” found in the Old Testament traditionally is attributed to King Solomon. However, scholars debate whether he wrote the book or if it was composed later in his honor; therefore, the authorship remains uncertain. Widely debated is the date of composition. While some scholarship ranges from the 10th to the 2nd century BCE, many scholars believe it was written between the 6th to 4th centuries BCE.

When reading the Song of Solomon, one discovers a collection of poetic verses that celebrates love and the beauty of relationships. The language is rich with metaphor, allegory, and vivid imagery.

The book offers several practical applications for contemporary readers, celebrating the beauty and intimacy of marriage, while emphasizing the importance of respecting boundaries within the context of a romantic relationship. When approaching the text from a religious perspective, the book can be taken as an allegory of the relationship between God and His people, reflecting the idea of a deep, intimate connection between the divine and the human.

Song of Solomon’s poetic language encourages readers to appreciate the beauty of love, including the physical aspects of relationships.

July 13 Song of Solomon 1-4 Psalms 12		
July 14 Song of Solomon 5-8 Psalms 13		

Isaiah Synopsis

The book of Isaiah is the longest prophetic book. The book begins with Isaiah who receives a vision to go and speak to the people on behalf of God. (Isaiah 6:1-9) Isaiah is to invite the people back to faithfulness to the God who saved them. Isaiah proclaims a God who would redeem Israel. The book of Isaiah is written in three parts: Part one (Chapters 1-39) takes part before the exile to Babylon. Part two (Chapters 40-55) takes place during the time of captivity in a foreign land. Part three (Chapters 56-66) occurs during the return to the promised land. Isaiah is a book of hope. Through this book, God's people are called to obedience while trusting in God's goodness, knowing that God will act today, tomorrow, and in the future.

Date Scripture	Reflections on the Scripture What surprised or inspired you? What questions do you have?	Three things for which I'm thankful.
July 15 Isaiah 1-5 Psalms 14		
July 16 Isaiah 6-10 Psalms 15		
July 17 Isaiah 11-15 Psalms 16		
July 18 Isaiah 16-21 Psalms 17		
July 19 Isaiah 22-25 Psalms 18:1-19		

<p style="text-align: center;">Date Scripture</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Reflections on the Scripture What surprised or inspired you? What questions do you have?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Three things for which I'm thankful.</p>
<p>July 20 Isaiah 26-28 Psalms 18:20-24</p>		
<p>July 21 Isaiah 29-31 Psalms 18:25-36</p>		
<p>July 22 Isaiah 22-36 Psalms 18:37-50</p>		
<p>July 23 Isaiah 37-38 Psalms 19</p>		
<p>July 24 Isaiah 39-41 Psalms 20</p>		
<p>July 25 Isaiah 42-44 Psalms 21</p>		
<p>July 26 Isaiah 45-48 Psalms 22</p>		

Date Scripture	Reflections on the Scripture What surprised or inspired you? What questions do you have?	Three things for which I'm thankful.
July 27 Isaiah 49-51 Psalms 22		
July 28 Isaiah 52-56 Psalms 23		
July 29 Isaiah 57-59 Psalms 24		
July 30 Isaiah 60-64 Psalms 25		
July 31 Isaiah 65-66 Psalms 26		



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