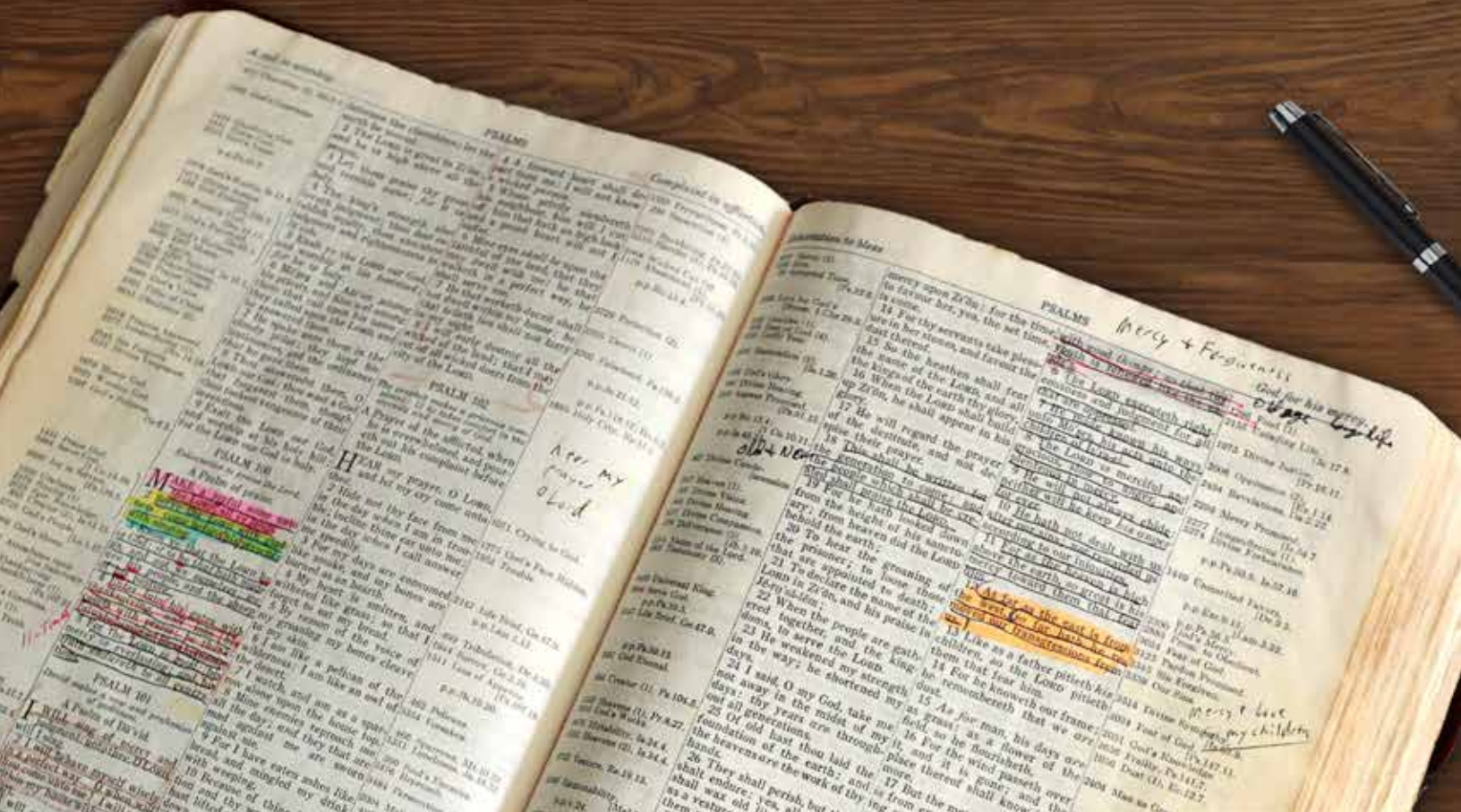


A YEAR IN THE BIBLE

SEPTEMBER



September

There are several voices that will be encountered this month. As you read, remember that the prophetic books were first shared centuries ago to people whose cultural, socioeconomic, religious, and personal lives were far different than our own. Do not get weighed down by specific details and miss the larger message. Ask yourself, what is the point that is being made?

Remember that typically when a prophet was critical against the people - it was because times were prosperous and they were probably overlooking

the needs of the poor (usually represented by the treatment of widows and orphans); and when a prophet was issuing words of comfort to the people, it was because they were going through terrible times of persecution and trouble. That can help us if we remember that when times are good in our own lives, how are we helping those in need?

When we are facing painful struggles, God is with us, comforting us.

Memory Verse

*He has showed you, O man, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?*

(Micah 6:8)

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.

Ezekiel Synopsis

Ezekiel is one of the major prophets of the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) who lived and preached during the time of the Babylonian exile. He offers a strong message of judgment when he predicts the fall of Jerusalem and the Temple. More importantly, perhaps, is the hopeful vision he lays out when he describes how dry bones can live again. The dry bones represent all that is left of the Israelites who have been thrown into exile. God breathes His spirit into these bones, and they live again. The message: No matter how dire our circumstances are, there is always hope 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.
September 1 Ezekiel 23-25 Psalms 57		
September 2 Ezekiel 26-27 Psalms 58		
September 3 Ezekiel 28-30 Psalms 59		
September 4 Ezekiel 31-32 Psalms 60		
September 5 Ezekiel 33-35 Psalms 61		

<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>September 6 Ezekiel 36-37 Psalms 62</p>		
<p>September 7 Ezekiel 38-39 Psalms 63</p>		
<p>September 8 Ezekiel 40-41 Psalms 64</p>		
<p>September 9 Ezekiel 42-43 Psalms 65</p>		
<p>September 10 Ezekiel 44-46 Psalms 66</p>		
<p>September 11 Ezekiel 47-48 Psalms 67</p>		
<p>September 12 Daniel 1-2 Psalms 68</p>		

Minor Prophets Synopsis

The Hebrew word for prophet is “nabi.” It describes a person who is called to speak on behalf of God. The Old Testament is filled with the writings of the “nabi.” These faithful people are called from many different walks of life to bring the word of God to the people of Israel and Judah. Their words still inspire and strengthen our faith, today.

There are seventeen books of the prophets in the Old Testament. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel are known as the major prophets. The other thirteen books are known as the contributions of the minor prophets. The difference? The size of the books. Major prophets are significantly larger works. The words of the minor prophets may be few, but they are as significant because they are the words of God.

Each prophet speaks and acts in unique ways to encourage God’s people. Although the settings are not all the same, there is an underlying pattern to the work of the “nabi.” Without hesitation, they point out bad behavior, injustice, oppression, and the faithlessness of the people who were called by God to be a holy nation. The prophet’s job is to call the people back to a faithful relationship with God. The prophets point out that there are consequences to living apart from God’s law. However, each prophet demonstrates that there is hope in the midst of God’s righteous judgment. Although the message of the prophets is challenging, it is necessary.

Even today, it is easy to see that God’s people can forget who they are called to be, yet the word of God is our foundation. It reminds us of who God is, who God has created us to be, and the word of God provides us hope that we can become the people who live in and are motivated by the ageless love of God.

Date Scripture	Reflections on the Scripture What surprised or inspired you? What questions do you have?	Three things for which I’m thankful.
September 13 Daniel 3-4 Psalms 68		
September 14 Daniel 5-6 Psalms 69		
September 15 Daniel 7-8 Psalms 69		

<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>September 16 Daniel 9-10 Psalms 70</p>		
<p>September 17 Daniel 11-12 Psalms 71</p>		
<p>September 18 Hosea 1-5 Psalms 72</p>		
<p>September 19 Hosea 6-11 Psalms 73</p>		
<p>September 20 Hosea 12-14 Psalms 74</p>		
<p>September 21 Joel 1-3 Psalms 75</p>		
<p>September 22 Amos 1-5 Psalms 76</p>		

Date Scripture	Reflections on the Scripture What surprised or inspired you? What questions do you have?	Three things for which I'm thankful.
September 23 Amos 6-9 Psalms 77		
September 24 Obadiah Jonah 1-4 Psalms 78		
September 25 Micah 1-7 Psalms 78		
September 26 Nahum 1-3 Psalms 78		
September 27 Habakkuk 1-3 Psalms 78		
September 28 Zephaniah 1-3 Psalms 78		
September 29 Zechariah 1-7 Psalms 78		

Date Scripture	Reflections on the Scripture What surprised or inspired you? What questions do you have?	Three things for which I'm thankful.
September 30 Zechariah 8-14 Psalms 79		



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