

Theological Musings from Dave's Laptop

December 11, 2018

Well, here we are. CHRISTmas is two weeks from today. If you're still thinking about your gift list, here are a few thoughts that might help

One of the gifts that church-going folk often consider for their friends, loved-ones, and sometimes for ourselves, is a new Bible. That's often a very good choice, because research indicates that **when it comes to spiritual growth, nothing beats the Bible.**¹

Bible publishing is a Big Business, though, and there are so many choices available that selecting one can be quite a challenge. There are special-interest Bibles of every sort imaginable—for men and women, for youth, for children, for note-taking—I've even got a waterproof, camouflage New Testament. I'm not going to try to help you with that kind of specificity, but I will offer a few thoughts about what versions you might want to consider.

As I'm sure you know, for most of sacred history, people have had very limited access to God's written Word, and even if they had access to it, they weren't able to read it, either because it wasn't available in their language or because they simply didn't know how to read. You and I are incredibly fortunate to have access not only to literacy, and not only to the Bible in our language, but also in literally dozens of English translations.

You may know that there is a continuum of approaches to Bible translation, the ends of which are called "formal equivalence" and "dynamic equivalence." **Formal equivalence** attempts to represent the words of the original text as accurately as possible in more or less the same order as they appear in the original. While this approach is very helpful for serious study, it sometimes results in translations that are difficult to read, because word order means different things in different languages.

Dynamic equivalence, on the other hand, attempts to represent the thought the original text intended to convey as accurately as possible in the syntax of the target language. The focus of dynamic equivalence is readability and comprehension, and that's often very helpful, but it sometimes results in translations that are farther from the source language, and therefore not as useful for deep study.

"Balanced" translations attempt to strike a balance between these poles, doing their best to stay close to the source text while also being idiomatic in the target language. And of course, various degrees of interpretation are required for any translation between languages at all.

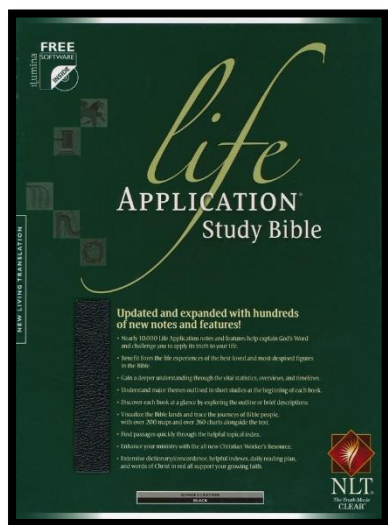
I've used translations of each of these types rather extensively over the years. My favorites on the formal equivalence end are the *English Standard Version* (ESV) and the *New American Standard Bible* (NASB). On the dynamic equivalence end, my favorites are the



¹ Greg Hawkins & Cally Parkinson, *MOVE: What 1,000 Churches Reveal about Spiritual Growth* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011), p. 167.

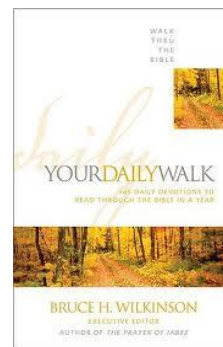
New Living Translation (NLT) and *The Message (MSG)*. For the balanced approach, my favorites are the *New International Version (NIV)* and the *Christian Standard Bible (CSB)*. While I use all of these regularly for study, what you'll generally hear me using in worship is the NIV (please see the chart at the end of this *Laptop*).

All of these translations can be found in hardback, paperback, leather, and various digital editions. And most of them can also be found in "study Bible" format. While study Bibles include many resources for study that can really make your reading "come alive," they're also significantly larger and heavier than just the Bible itself. And there's the additional hazard that many study Bibles are written to promote a particular theological agenda or viewpoint, so their notes and helps will be slanted in that direction.²



Happily, the most "agenda-free" study Bible of which I'm aware is also the most popular one. It's called *The Life Application Study Bible*, and those notes can be found "wrapped around" the NIV, the NLT, the NASB, the KJV, and the NKJV.

Another aid to study is Bruce Wilkinson's *Your Daily Walk*, published by *Walk Thru the Bible* and available at Amazon.com and similar places.³ This study guide has some of the best overview materials I've ever seen that help to get the "big picture" of what's going on in the text.



Whether you're in the market for a Bible or not, I hope you'll join me in reading your Bible *every single day* next year. There are many approaches to such reading, and the

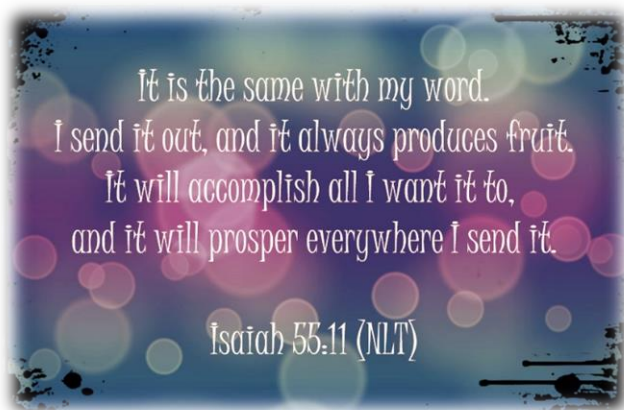
"best" approach is the one you'll continue to use. I've appended the schedule that I've used for many years.

If you're new to daily reading and study, it can take a while to develop this discipline to the point where you look forward to it each day. While you're getting from here to there, I encourage you to be gentle with yourself.

Especially if you're planning to read the whole Bible in the course of the year, it's pretty easy to fall so far behind that it's discouraging. I suggest that if you miss more than a day, just pick up with the day's reading for where the schedule is when you resume. Don't try to catch up. Time in the Word is not meant to be a burden!







Growing with you,

Dave



² The *ESV Study Bible*, for example, while truly excellent, promotes reformed or Calvinistic theology. The *Scofield Study Bible* promotes dispensational premillennialism, etc.

³ Here's the link: https://smile.amazon.com/Your-Daily-Walk-Thru-Bible/dp/0310536510/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1544573224&sr=8-1&keywords=your+daily+walk+by+bruce+wilkinson

“Word-for-Word” (not always as easy to read)		Intends to find middle-ground between “Word-for-Word” and “Thought-for- Thought”		“Thought-for-Thought” (not always as close to the original text)	
FORMAL EQUIVALENCE		BALANCED		DYNAMIC EQUIVALENCE	
<i>New American Standard Version (NASB)</i>	<i>English Standard Version (ESV)</i>	<i>Christian Standard Version (CSB)</i>	<i>New International Version (NIV)</i>	<i>New Living Translation (NLT)</i>	<i>The Message Paraphrase (MSG)</i>
					



Interlinear			KJV		CSB		NIV		GNT	CEB		MSG
	NASB	ESV		NKJV		NRSV		NLT			LB	

Translations in the top half of the chart are original translations directly from ancient languages into English.

Translations in the bottom half of the chart began with the English text of another Bible translation.

A Plan
for Reading
the Bible through
in One Year



JANUARY

- 1 Genesis 1—3
Matthew 1
- 2 Genesis 4—6
Matthew 2:1-12
- 3 Genesis 7—8
Matthew 2:13-23
- 4 Genesis 9—11
Matthew 3
- 5 Genesis 12—14
Matthew 4:1-11
- 6 Genesis 15—17
Matthew 4:12-25
- 7 Genesis 18—19
Matthew 5:1-16
- 8 Genesis 20—22
Matthew 5:17-48
- 9 Genesis 23—24
Matthew 6:1-18
- 10 Genesis 25—27
Matthew 6:19-34
- 11 Genesis 28—29
Matthew 7:1-14
- 12 Genesis 30—31
Matthew 7:15-29
- 13 Genesis 32—33
Matthew 8:1-17
- 14 Genesis 34—36
Matthew 8:18-34
- 15 Genesis 37—38
Matthew 9:1-26
- 16 Genesis 39—40
Matthew 9:27-38
- 17 Genesis 41—42
Matthew 10
- 18 Genesis 43—45
Matthew 11:1-19
- 19 Genesis 46—47
Matthew 11:20-30
- 20 Genesis 48—50
Matthew 12:1-21
- 21 Exodus 1—2
Matthew 12:22-50
- 22 Exodus 3—4
Matthew 13:1-23
- 23 Exodus 5—7
Matthew 13:24-58
- 24 Exodus 8—9
Matthew 14:1-21

- 25 Exodus 10—11
Matthew 14:22-36
- 26 Exodus 12—13
Matthew 15:1-20
- 27 Exodus 14—15
Matthew 15:21-39
- 28 Exodus 16—18
Matthew 16:1-12
- 29 Exodus 19—21
Matthew 16:13-28
- 30 Exodus 22—23
Matthew 17:1-13
- 31 Exodus 24—26
Matthew 17:14-27

FEBRUARY

- 1 Exodus 27—28
Matthew 18:1-20
- 2 Exodus 29—30
Matthew 18:21-35
- 3 Exodus 31—32
Matthew 19:1-15
- 4 Exodus 33—34
Matthew 19:16-30
- 5 Exodus 35—36
Matthew 20:1-16
- 6 Exodus 37—38
Matthew 20:17-34
- 7 Exodus 39—40
Matthew 21:1-22
- 8 Leviticus 1—3
Matthew 21:23-46
- 9 Leviticus 4—5
Matthew 22:1-14
- 10 Leviticus 6—8
Matthew 22:15-46
- 11 Leviticus 9—10
Matthew 23
- 12 Leviticus 11—13
Matthew 24:1-31
- 13 Leviticus 14—15
Matthew 24:32-51
- 14 Leviticus 16—18
Matthew 25:1-30
- 15 Leviticus 19—20
Matthew 25:31-46
- 16 Leviticus 21—23
Matthew 26:1-35
- 17 Leviticus 24—25
Matthew 26:36-56

- 18 Leviticus 26—27
Matthew 26:57-75
- 19 Numbers 1—2
Matthew 27:1-31
- 20 Numbers 3—4
Matthew 27:32-66
- 21 Numbers 5—6
Matthew 28
- 22 Numbers 7
Mark 1:1-15
- 23 Numbers 8—10
Mark 1:16-45
- 24 Numbers 11—12
Mark 2:1-13
- 25 Numbers 13—14
Mark 2:14-28
- 26 Numbers 15—16
Mark 3:1-12
- 27 Numbers 17—18
Mark 3:13-35
- 28 Numbers 19—20
Mark 4:1-20
- 29 Numbers 21
Mark 4:21-41

In the years when February has only 28 days, the readings for February 28 and February 29 should be combined as follows:

- 28 Numbers 19—21
Mark 4

MARCH

- 1 Numbers 22—24
Mark 5:1-20
- 2 Numbers 25—26
Mark 5:21-43
- 3 Numbers 27—29
Mark 6:1-13
- 4 Numbers 30—31
Mark 6:14-32
- 5 Numbers 32—33
Mark 6:33-56
- 6 Numbers 34—36
Mark 7:1-23
- 7 Deuteronomy 1—2
Mark 7:24-37
- 8 Deuteronomy 3—4
Mark 8:1-10

- 9 Deuteronomy 5—6
Mark 8:11-26
- 10 Deuteronomy 7—9
Mark 8:27-38
- 11 Deuteronomy 10—11
Mark 9:1-13
- 12 Deuteronomy 12—14
Mark 9:14-29
- 13 Deuteronomy 15—17
Mark 9:30-50
- 14 Deuteronomy 18—20
Mark 10:1-16
- 15 Deuteronomy 21—23
Mark 10:17-31
- 16 Deuteronomy 24—26
Mark 10:32-52
- 17 Deuteronomy 27—28
Mark 11:1-11
- 18 Deuteronomy 29—30
Mark 11:12-33
- 19 Deuteronomy 31—32
Mark 12:1-12
- 20 Deuteronomy 33—34
Mark 12:13-27
- 21 Joshua 1—2
Mark 12:28-44
- 22 Joshua 3—4
Mark 13:1-13
- 23 Joshua 5—6
Mark 13:14-37
- 24 Joshua 7—8
Mark 14:1-11
- 25 Joshua 9—10
Mark 14:12-31
- 26 Joshua 11—12
Mark 14:32-52
- 27 Joshua 13—15
Mark 14:53-72
- 28 Joshua 16—18
Mark 15:1-15
- 29 Joshua 19—20
Mark 15:16-39
- 30 Joshua 21—22
Mark 15:40-47
- 31 Joshua 23—24
Mark 16

APRIL

- 1 Judges 1—3
Luke 1:1-25

2 Judges 4—5
Luke 1:26-38

3 Judges 6
Luke 1:39-56

4 Judges 7—8
Luke 1:57-80

5 Judges 9
Luke 2:1-20

6 Judges 10—12
Luke 2:21-40

7 Judges 13—15
Luke 2:41-52

8 Judges 16
Luke 3:1-20

9 Judges 17—18
Luke 3:21-38

10 Judges 19—20
Luke 4:1-13

11 Judges 21
Luke 4:14-32

12 Ruth 1—2
Luke 4:33-44

13 Ruth 3—4
Luke 5:1-26

14 1 Samuel 1—2
Luke 5:27-39

15 1 Samuel 3—4
Luke 6:1-11

16 1 Samuel 5—6
Luke 6:12-49

17 1 Samuel 7—8
Luke 7:1-17

18 1 Samuel 9—10
Luke 7:18-35

19 1 Samuel 11—13
Luke 7:36-50

20 1 Samuel 14—15
Luke 8:1-18

21 1 Samuel 16—17
Luke 8:19-39

22 1 Samuel 18—19
Luke 8:40-56

23 1 Samuel 20—21
Luke 9:1-17

24 1 Samuel 22—23
Luke 9:18-45

25 1 Samuel 24—25
Luke 9:46-62

26 1 Samuel 26—27
Luke 10:1-24

27 1 Samuel 28—29
Luke 10:25-42

28 1 Samuel 30—31
Luke 11:1-13

29 2 Samuel 1—2
Luke 11:14-28

30 2 Samuel 3—4
Luke 11:29-54

MAY

1 2 Samuel 5—6
Luke 12:1-12

2 2 Samuel 7—8
Luke 12:13-34

3 2 Samuel 9—10
Luke 12:35-59

4 2 Samuel 11—12
Luke 13:1-17

5 2 Samuel 13—14
Luke 13:18-35

6 2 Samuel 15—16
Luke 14:1-24

7 2 Samuel 17—18
Luke 14:25-35

8 2 Samuel 19—20
Luke 15

9 2 Samuel 21—22
Luke 16:1-18

10 2 Samuel 23—24
Luke 16:19-31

11 1 Kings 1—2
Luke 17:1-19

12 1 Kings 3—4
Luke 17:20-37

13 1 Kings 5—6
Luke 18:1-17

14 1 Kings 7—8
Luke 18:18-43

15 1 Kings 9—11
Luke 19:1-27

16 1 Kings 12—13
Luke 19:28-48

17 1 Kings 14—15
Luke 20:1-26

18 1 Kings 16—17
Luke 20:27-47

19 1 Kings 18—19
Luke 21:1-28

20 1 Kings 20—21
Luke 21:29-38

- 21 1 Kings 22
Luke 22:1-23
- 22 2 Kings 1—3
Luke 22:24-53
- 23 2 Kings 4—5
Luke 22:54-71
- 24 2 Kings 6—7
Luke 23:1-12
- 25 2 Kings 8—9
Luke 23:13-32
- 26 2 Kings 10—11
Luke 23:33-56
- 27 2 Kings 12—13
Luke 24:1-12
- 28 2 Kings 14—15
Luke 24:13-53
- 29 2 Kings 16—17
John 1:1-18
- 30 2 Kings 18—20
John 1:19-51
- 31 2 Kings 21—23
John 2

JUNE

- 1 2 Kings 24—25
John 3:1-21
- 2 1 Chronicles 1—2
John 3:22-36
- 3 1 Chronicles 3—4
John 4:1-42
- 4 1 Chronicles 5—6
John 4:43-54
- 5 1 Chronicles 7—8
John 5:1-17
- 6 1 Chronicles 9—10
John 5:18-47
- 7 1 Chronicles 11—12
John 6:1-15
- 8 1 Chronicles 13—15
John 6:16-40
- 9 1 Chronicles 16—17
John 6:41-71
- 10 1 Chronicles 18—19
John 7:1-36
- 11 1 Chronicles 20—21
John 7:37-53
- 12 1 Chronicles 22—24
John 8:1-11
- 13 1 Chronicles 25—27
John 8:12-59

- 14 1 Chronicles 28—29
John 9
- 15 2 Chronicles 1—2
John 10:1-21
- 16 2 Chronicles 3—4
John 10:22-42
- 17 2 Chronicles 5—6
John 11
- 18 2 Chronicles 7—9
John 12:1-19
- 19 2 Chronicles 10—12
John 12:20-50
- 20 2 Chronicles 13—16
John 13
- 21 2 Chronicles 17—19
John 14
- 22 2 Chronicles 20—21
John 15
- 23 2 Chronicles 22—23
John 16
- 24 2 Chronicles 24—25
John 17
- 25 2 Chronicles 26—27
John 18
- 26 2 Chronicles 28—29
John 19:1-16
- 27 2 Chronicles 30—31
John 19:17-42
- 28 2 Chronicles 32
John 20:1-18
- 29 2 Chronicles 33—34
John 20:19-31
- 30 2 Chronicles 35—36
John 21

JULY

- 1 Ezra 1—2
Acts 1
- 2 Ezra 3—4
Acts 2
- 3 Ezra 5—6
Acts 3
- 4 Ezra 7—8
Acts 4:1-22
- 5 Ezra 9—10
Acts 4:23-37
- 6 Nehemiah 1—3
Acts 5
- 7 Nehemiah 4—6
Acts 6

8 Nehemiah 7—9
Acts 7
9 Nehemiah 10—11
Acts 8:1-25
10 Nehemiah 12—13
Acts 8:26-40
11 Esther 1—2
Acts 9:1-22
12 Esther 3—6
Acts 9:23-43
13 Esther 7—10
Acts 10:1-23
14 Job 1—3
Acts 10:24-48
15 Job 4—7
Acts 11
16 Job 8—10
Acts 12
17 Job 11—14
Acts 13:1-13
18 Job 15—17
Acts 13:14-52
19 Job 18—21
Acts 14
20 Job 22—24
Acts 15
21 Job 25—28
Acts 16:1-15
22 Job 29—31
Acts 16:16-40
23 Job 32—34
Acts 17:1-15
24 Job 35—37
Acts 17:16-34
25 Job 38—39
Acts 18
26 Job 40—42
Acts 19:1-20
27 Psalms 1—6
Acts 19:21-41
28 Psalms 7—12
Acts 20:1-16
29 Psalms 13—18
Acts 20:17-38
30 Psalms 19—24
Acts 21:1-16
31 Psalms 25—30
Acts 21:17-40

AUGUST

1 Psalms 31—36
Acts 22
2 Psalms 37—41
Acts 23
3 Psalms 42—47
Acts 24
4 Psalms 48—53
Acts 25
5 Psalms 54—58
Acts 26
6 Psalms 59—64
Acts 27
7 Psalms 65—68
Acts 28:1-15
8 Psalms 69—72
Acts 28:16-31
9 Psalms 73—77
Romans 1:1-17
10 Psalms 78—80
Romans 1:18-32
11 Psalms 81—86
Romans 2
12 Psalms 87—89
Romans 3
13 Psalms 90—95
Romans 4
14 Psalms 96—102
Romans 5
15 Psalms 103—106
Romans 6
16 Psalms 107—111
Romans 7
17 Psalms 112—118
Romans 8:1-17
18 Psalm 119:1-88
Romans 8:18-39
19 Psalm 119:89-176
Romans 9
20 Psalms 120—129
Romans 10
21 Psalms 130—136
Romans 11
22 Psalms 137—140
Romans 12
23 Psalms 141—145
Romans 13
24 Psalms 146—150
Romans 14

- 25 Proverbs 1—3
Romans 15
- 26 Proverbs 4—6
Romans 16
- 27 Proverbs 7—9
1 Corinthians 1
- 28 Proverbs 10—12
1 Corinthians 2
- 29 Proverbs 13—14
1 Corinthians 3
- 30 Proverbs 15—17
1 Corinthians 4
- 31 Proverbs 18—20
1 Corinthians 5

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Proverbs 21—23
1 Corinthians 6
- 2 Proverbs 24—26
1 Corinthians 7
- 3 Proverbs 27—29
1 Corinthians 8
- 4 Proverbs 30—31
1 Corinthians 9
- 5 Ecclesiastes 1—3
1 Corinthians 10
- 6 Ecclesiastes 4—7
1 Corinthians 11
- 7 Ecclesiastes 8—12
1 Corinthians 12
- 8 Song of Solomon 1—4
1 Corinthians 13
- 9 Song of Solomon 5—8
1 Corinthians 14
- 10 Isaiah 1—4
1 Corinthians 15
- 11 Isaiah 5—7
1 Corinthians 16
- 12 Isaiah 8—9
2 Corinthians 1
- 13 Isaiah 10—12
2 Corinthians 2
- 14 Isaiah 13—14
2 Corinthians 3
- 15 Isaiah 15—18
2 Corinthians 4
- 16 Isaiah 19—22
2 Corinthians 5
- 17 Isaiah 23—25
2 Corinthians 6

- 18 Isaiah 26—29
2 Corinthians 7
- 19 Isaiah 30—32
2 Corinthians 8
- 20 Isaiah 33—35
2 Corinthians 9
- 21 Isaiah 36—39
2 Corinthians 10
- 22 Isaiah 40—41
2 Corinthians 11
- 23 Isaiah 42—43
2 Corinthians 12
- 24 Isaiah 44—47
2 Corinthians 13
- 25 Isaiah 48—50
Galatians 1
- 26 Isaiah 51—53
Galatians 2
- 27 Isaiah 54—57
Galatians 3
- 28 Isaiah 58—60
Galatians 4
- 29 Isaiah 61—63
Galatians 5
- 30 Isaiah 64—66
Galatians 6

OCTOBER

- 1 Jeremiah 1
Ephesians 1
- 2 Jeremiah 2
Ephesians 2
- 3 Jeremiah 3—4
Ephesians 3
- 4 Jeremiah 5—6
Ephesians 4
- 5 Jeremiah 7—8
Ephesians 5
- 6 Jeremiah 9—10
Ephesians 6
- 7 Jeremiah 11—12
Philippians 1
- 8 Jeremiah 13—14
Philippians 2
- 9 Jeremiah 15—17
Philippians 3
- 10 Jeremiah 18—19
Philippians 4
- 11 Jeremiah 20—21
Colossians 1

12 Jeremiah 22—23
Colossians 2
13 Jeremiah 24—25
Colossians 3
14 Jeremiah 26
Colossians 4
15 Jeremiah 27—28
1 Thessalonians 1
16 Jeremiah 29—30
1 Thessalonians 2
17 Jeremiah 31
1 Thessalonians 3
18 Jeremiah 32
1 Thessalonians 4
19 Jeremiah 33—34
1 Thessalonians 5
20 Jeremiah 35—36
2 Thessalonians 1
21 Jeremiah 37—38
2 Thessalonians 2
22 Jeremiah 39—41
2 Thessalonians 3
23 Jeremiah 42—43
1 Timothy 1
24 Jeremiah 44—45
1 Timothy 2
25 Jeremiah 46—47
1 Timothy 3
26 Jeremiah 48
1 Timothy 4
27 Jeremiah 49
1 Timothy 5
28 Jeremiah 50
1 Timothy 6
29 Jeremiah 51
2 Timothy 1
30 Jeremiah 52
2 Timothy 2
31 Lamentations 1
2 Timothy 3

NOVEMBER

1 Lamentations 2
2 Timothy 4
2 Lamentations 3
Titus 1
3 Lamentations 4
Titus 2
4 Lamentations 5
Titus 3

5 Ezekiel 1—2
Philemon
6 Ezekiel 3—5
Hebrews 1
7 Ezekiel 6—7
Hebrews 2
8 Ezekiel 8—10
Hebrews 3
9 Ezekiel 11—12
Hebrews 4
10 Ezekiel 13—14
Hebrews 5
11 Ezekiel 15—16
Hebrews 6
12 Ezekiel 17—18
Hebrews 7
13 Ezekiel 19—20
Hebrews 8
14 Ezekiel 21—22
Hebrews 9
15 Ezekiel 23—24
Hebrews 10
16 Ezekiel 25—26
Hebrews 11
17 Ezekiel 27—28
Hebrews 12
18 Ezekiel 29—30
Hebrews 13
19 Ezekiel 31—32
James 1
20 Ezekiel 33—34
James 2
21 Ezekiel 35—37
James 3
22 Ezekiel 38—39
James 4
23 Ezekiel 40—41
James 5
24 Ezekiel 42—43
1 Peter 1
25 Ezekiel 44—46
1 Peter 2
26 Ezekiel 47—48
1 Peter 3
27 Daniel 1
1 Peter 4
28 Daniel 2
1 Peter 5
29 Daniel 3
2 Peter 1

30 Daniel 4
2 Peter 2

DECEMBER

1 Daniel 5—6
2 Peter 3
2 Daniel 7—8
1 John 1
3 Daniel 9
1 John 2
4 Daniel 10—12
1 John 3
5 Hosea 1—3
1 John 4
6 Hosea 4—6
1 John 5
7 Hosea 7—8
2 John
8 Hosea 9—10
3 John
9 Hosea 11—12
Jude
10 Hosea 13—14
Revelation 1
11 Joel 1—3
Revelation 2
12 Amos 1—2
Revelation 3
13 Amos 3—4
Revelation 4
14 Amos 5—7
Revelation 5

15 Amos 8—9
Revelation 6
16 Obadiah
Revelation 7
17 Jonah 1—4
Revelation 8
18 Micah 1—2
Revelation 9
19 Micah 3—4
Revelation 10
20 Micah 5—7
Revelation 11
21 Nahum 1—3
Revelation 12
22 Habakkuk 1—3
Revelation 13
23 Zephaniah 1—3
Revelation 14
24 Haggai 1—2
Revelation 15
25 Zechariah 1—3
Revelation 16
26 Zechariah 4—5
Revelation 17
27 Zechariah 6—8
Revelation 18
28 Zechariah 9—11
Revelation 19
29 Zechariah 12—14
Revelation 20
30 Malachi 1—2
Revelation 21
31 Malachi 3—4
Revelation 22