

# FAITH BIBLE READING

Dec 10-16, 2018

At Faith Baptist Fellowship, we ***Love God's Word and Prayer*** (Ephesians 6:17-18)! Take the 'sword of the Spirit' (God's Word) and persevere in prayer! In this year, ask God each day to speak directly to you from the Scripture portions you read.

*Our plan for 2018 will be taken from the Discipleship Journal Bible Reading Plan. Monday-Saturday we will focus on one main devotional passage; the additional readings will keep you on track to finish the entire Bible in one year. On Sunday, we will have a passage from the upcoming Sunday sermon along with questions for Faith Group discussion.*

*We suggest having a notebook and pen for answering questions and recording your thoughts/insights. Bring this notebook with you to Faith Group for discussions and prayer times. Select a quiet place and consistent time to read and pray.*

Abbreviations: **TAI** – Think About It | **PP** – Prayer Points

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

### Read Amos 3-4

**TAI:** "This series of sayings draws out the implications of the previous oracles against the nations. If God would punish the nations for their wickedness, how much more would he punish Israel and Judah, who ought to have known better, given their special status before God." (Sailhamer) In ch. 4, their future captivity is prophesied (1-3), due to their corrupt worship (4-5). God tries a variety of methods to shake them awake from their spiritual slumber, but nothing is effective. They refuse to repent. *Are we spiritually alive and awake, or in a stupor?*

**PP:** Just as God was trying to awaken his people and get their attention, so he seems to be trying to get our attention (in our nation and our world). What evidence of that have you observed? Tell God of your desire to be wide awake spiritually, walking with Jesus and alive to the daily work of the Holy Spirit. ***Fill me with your Spirit, O Father, that I might live a life pleasing to you today!*** Thank God for his word, the Bible, and for the promised presence and power of the Holy Spirit for every believer in Christ. ***I love you, God!***

**Additional readings:** John 16:25-33; Revelation 6; Job 31:24-40

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

### Read Amos 5-6

**TAI:** Three woes are introduced, as destruction for a defiant and sinful people is prophesied. Memorable: the phrase “seek the Lord and live.” Take that to heart! Ponder, perhaps even memorize, the powerful statement of God’s creative glory and judgement (5:8-9).

Woe #1: God calls out the sin of injustice and calls for repentance.

Woe #2: God confronts their corrupt worship, carrying out the form but with hearts that love injustice and unrighteousness (5:21-27).

Woe #3: God despises their arrogance, pride, and presumption.

**PP:** The woes described here provide a litmus test for our own hearts. What do we need to confess? Test yourself: injustice toward the needy; unrighteousness; arrogance; pride; presuming on God’s grace while pursuing worldliness. Let us humble ourselves. Let us receive from our Heavenly Father his mercy through the precious blood of Christ. Let us be filled with the Holy Spirit and live for him!

**Additional readings:** John 17:1-5; Revelation 7; Job 32

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

### Read Amos 7-9

**TAI:** Five visions close this prophetic book. Identify them:

1. (7:1-3)

2. (4-6)

3. (7-9) [note: what is a plumb line?]

Beginning with v. 10, the prophetic ministry of Amos is explained.

4. (8:1-3)

In the rest of ch. 8 follows the now familiar and unfortunate pattern: the people love injustice, God promises judgement, a famine of truth.

5. (9) A vivid vision of judgement but closing with a picture of hope.

**PP:** As described in 8:11, there is today a famine of biblical truth in our land. In many homes the Bible is never read, in many pulpits God’s word is never preached—instead of the nutrition of truth there is the fast food of positive thinking, health and wealth, and Christ-less “Christianity.” Ask God to send a revival of biblical hope and the gospel to our nation. Express to God your hunger for truth! Thank God for sending **JESUS** as the great **HOPE** of the nations!

**Additional Readings:** John 17:6-19; Revelation 8; Job 33:1-11

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

### Read Obadiah 1-21

**TAI:** “Edom” represents “the nations who were the professed enemies of God’s people Israel” and “portrays God’s judgment on these nations.” (quotes all Sailhamer) In vv. 1-16, Edom is all too happy for the destruction brought against Jerusalem and Judah. God warns them against their gloating, rejoicing, and boasting over this. In verses 17-21, God promises deliverance for his people and ultimately the entire kingdom shall belong to the Lord. This end triumph is pictured for us in Revelation 5:13-14.

**PP:** All too often today we see the enemies of the gospel of Jesus Christ gloating, rejoicing, and boasting. There seems to be a rise of both rhetoric and policy contrary to Jesus and God’s law. Obadiah reminds us that our hope is in God himself, in the triumphant return of Jesus to reign and rule in the new heavens and earth. Thank God for his promises. Thank him for the hope of the gospel. Pray for our young adults recently deployed in gospel work both in the US and overseas as well as our entire Running group team. **Our God reigns!**

**Additional Readings:** John 17:20-26; Revelation 9; Job 33:12-33

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

### Read Jonah 1-4

**TAI:** Today we read the entire book of Jonah. What was Jonah’s assignment from God? Why was it foolish to flee? *Why is it foolish for us to flee from doing what God commands?* Why was Jonah thrown into the sea? How did the seamen respond to this? Reflect for some moments on Jonah’s prayer. What effect did the turning of Nineveh have on Jonah? Does this surprise you? Explain the living parable of Noah and the plant. What point was God making?

**PP:** In prayer, express to God your desire to walk in the obedience of faith, trusting that what God our Father commands is what is best for you. Ask God to give you a gracious heart toward lost people. Praise God that the gospel is advancing to “every tribe and tongue and people and nation.” Ask God to give you a heart for the nations.

**Additional Readings:** John 18:1-8; Revelation 10; Job 34:1-20

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

### Read Micah 1-3

**TAI:** “Like Amos, Micah was particularly forceful in his denunciation of the social morality of Judah. His prophecies contain a heavy emphasis on attacking the mere externality of the people’s worship.” (Sailhamer) Woe to that people against whom God himself is a witness (1:2) and Judge (1:3-4). As we have previously seen again and again, the sins of idolatry (1:7) and injustice (2:1-2) reveal the wickedness of God’s people, who should certainly know better. The prophet speaks the truth in the power of the Holy Spirit (3:8).

**PP:** *“Heavenly Father, help me live a distinctive Christian life, a holy life pleasing to you, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Help me to speak the truth of the gospel to all who need to hear it by your Spirit. Let my worship be heartfelt and my faith genuine. Forgive me of my sin, and fill me again and again with your Spirit. Keep me from saying one thing and doing another. May my great love for you overflow in love for others. My hope is in you!”*

**Additional Readings:** John 18:9-27; Revelation 11; Job 34:21-37

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

### Read 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

**TAI & PP:** This paragraph reinforces several of our convictions about preaching at Faith Baptist Fellowship. We believe in:

- the open statement of the truth, without cunning
- proclaiming the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ
- praying earnestly for God to open blinded eyes to see that light
- proclaiming not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord.

This is our message, JESUS CHRIST, the Light of the World!

Pray for the light of Christ to dawn brightly in the lives of all who hear about him today at FBF South and West. Pray for Pastors Dana and Jayson as they preach. Pray that our singing and every aspect of our worship would please God and be a powerful testimony to the truth of the gospel.