

FAITH BIBLE READING

Dec 17-23, 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 17

Read Micah 4-5

TAI: Can you identify the five pronouncements of salvation here?

1. 4:1-5 salvation for the nations at Zion through the Lord our God.
2. 4:6-7 salvation for the regathered remnant, including the needy.
3. 4:8-13 salvation for the remnant by the power and plan of God.
4. 5:1-5a salvation through a coming ruler from Bethlehem! **Amen.**
5. 5:5b-9 salvation that will impact *all the nations* of the earth.

This sounds like the NT! What judgment is declared in 5:10-15? Thus, *a ruler from Bethlehem will bring about the deliverance of God's people from all nations and victory over God's enemies!*

PP: This is a perfect Scripture for Advent, for it whets our appetite for the coming ultimate victory of the Lord Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God for his grand plan of salvation in Christ! Praise God. Thank God. Pray a prayer of rejoicing in God our Savior, Jesus Christ, for he is the Light of the World and the great Source of our salvation. Pray for our Christmas Eve services at both campuses one week from today. Pray that many would be invited and attend who do not hear the gospel regularly, and that hope in Christ would be communicated. Pray for the person(s) you have invited! Hint hint.

Additional readings: John 18:28-40; Revelation 12; Job 35

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

Read Micah 6-7

TAI: In the midst of God's frustration with his rebellious people, he declares quite plainly and simply what he desires from them (6:8). Memorize this classic and powerful verse: do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with God! Instead, Israel's worship is self-centered and misplaced. What sins are they guilty of? What are the bitter consequences? In contrast to the many sins and failings is a person who trusts in God, waits and prays (7:7). **Does this verse describe you?** God will yet give light to the sinner (7:8) and ultimately his steadfast love will deliver pardon for sin and final salvation (18-20).

PP: Pray through these two crucial verses, Micah 6:8 and 7:7-8. Apply them to your own daily walk with Jesus. Make them personal! Ask for God's grace and fullness of the Holy Spirit to be just in all your dealings, loving and kind in everyday relationships, and humble in your work and worship. Ask God to help you look in him in faith and practice believing prayer. Ask God for patience to wait for him. In these hectic days of Christmas season rush, slow down for a moment and express your confidence in God and thanks for the Light!

Additional readings: John 19:1-16; Revelation 13; Job 36:1-15

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

Read Nahum 1-3

TAI: Warren Wiersbe: 'Nahum means "comfort," and his message was certainly a comfort to the Jews who feared and hated the cruel Assyrians' threats to their security. The book focuses on the holy character of God who cannot allow sin to go unpunished. In chapter 1, Nahum *declares* Ninevah's fall; in chapter 2, he *describes* it; and in chapter 3, he *defends* it.' [*With the Word*, p. 599] Note the attributes of God detailed as the book opens; 1:15 announces the beautiful feet of the Deliverer of good news.

PP: Pray a prayer of praise, lauding God for his attributes, and taking comfort in 1:7. Thank God for the messenger(s) who delivered the good news of the gospel to you, and especially for Jesus our Savior. Thank God also for the blessed **hope** we have, a future in God's very presence, guaranteed by the resurrection of Jesus. Hallelujah!

Additional Readings: John 19:17-27; Revelation 14; Job 36:16-33

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

Read Habakkuk 1-3

TAI: Warren Wiersbe: ‘Habbakuk saw the impending Babylonian invasion, and he wondered that God would use a wicked nation to punish his chosen people. His book describes three stages in Habbakuk’s experience—perplexity: faith wavers (ch. 1); perspective: faith watches (ch. 2); and perseverance: faith worships (ch. 3). The key text is 2:4, “*but the righteous shall live by his faith.*” It is quoted in Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, and Hebrews 10:38.’

PP: The closing chapter is a prayer (and song!) of awe and worship. It closes with some of the most beautiful and stunning poetry in all of Scripture (vv. 17-19). Pray through these 3 verses, meditating on them, reflecting on your own faith. Perhaps sing your own song with these verses! Hard times come; sometimes they seem to overwhelm. But our God is faithful. Trusting him is the best way to live!

Additional Readings: John 19:28-37; Revelation 15; Job 37

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

Read Zephaniah 1-2

TAI: Zephaniah is prophesying during the reign of Josiah about God’s judgment: the coming Day of the Lord. 1:12 is a strong warning against *complacency*. The language is vivid and expressive; 1:17-18 make clear that sin is the problem, rebellion against God. Yet it is still possible to repent and seek the Lord (2:1-3). The proud and mighty city of Ninevah and the Assyrian people will be brought low as the judgement of the Lord comes. We are reminded of the proverb, “Pride comes before a fall.” (Proverbs 16:18)

PP: Do we need to confess to complacency in our daily walk with God? (The fact that you are doing these daily readings is a sure sign of health and vitality in following Jesus!) Confess any sin of pride or self-centeredness. Pray a prayer earnestly seeking the Lord, his presence and power in your life by the Holy Spirit. Pray for our proud and mighty nation, that we would humble ourselves and repent of sin and seek the Lord! Pray for all in political authority.

Additional Readings: John 19:38-42; Revelation 16; Job 38:1-21

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

Read Zephaniah 3

TAI: While judgment is yet declared for the rebellious and defiled (3:1), a ray of hope springs forth also that a great change will come (v. 9ff.). God will change the heart of the nations and give them new speech; there is hope for the humble and lowly of heart (v. 12) who seek refuge in the name of the Lord. God's people will yet sing and shout, rejoice and exult, for God will vindicate his name and restore his people. Here is foreshadowing of the Great Commission, the gospel bringing hope to the peoples of the earth, as well as a turning to Christ among the Jewish people (Romans 11).

PP: And so, we pray for these things! Pray for humility of heart on the part of believers everywhere. Pray for repentance and faith in response to the gospel in all the people groups of the world. Pray for a turning to Jesus as Savior and Messiah among the Jewish people. Pray for a softening of the heart of our own proud and rebellious nation. *Let us pray for Sarah in Thailand and Scott preparing as well for overseas service in a very needy people group.*

Additional Readings: John 20:1-9; Revelation 17; Job 38:22-41

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

Read Revelation 21, with special focus on vv. 23-24!

TAI & PP: We close out our Advent series *The Light: Yesterday, Today, and Forever* with this glimpse of the light in the future! What glory and light is to come by the promise of God in the new heavens and new earth. In that great city of the future the glory of God will be the only source of light needed, and Jesus the Lamb will be our lamp! Hallelujah! In these troubled days of fear and violence and heartache and sorrow, let us shine our light before others, the light of the glory of God in the face of Christ, by the word of our gospel testimony and the amazing HOPE in Christ that sustains us!

Pray for the pastors and our choir today (South Campus). Pray for a great work of grace in our Christmas worship. Pray for our Christmas Eve services as well: 4 pm at South and 7 pm at West. Merry Christmas, everyone! Christ is our Everlasting Light!