



**Reading the Bible
in a Year
—chronologically**

AUGUST

MORE KINGS AND PROPHETS

Israel has gone into exile in *Assyria* and we now focus on the prophets who ministered alongside the remaining kings of *Judah* in the 135 years up to the exile to *Babylon*.

Jeremiah and Ezekiel are among the *major* prophets; the others are classified as *minor*.

NAHUM		
A.	Chapter 1	Nineveh's fall: the CERTAINTY of it
B.	Chapter 2	Nineveh's fall: the MANNER of it
C.	Chapter 3	Nineveh's fall: the REASONS for it

Nahum. Almost a century after Nineveh (Assyria's capital) repented at Jonah's preaching, the city is again angering God. Nahum's message is not one of hope; he prophesies its *imminent downfall*, which seems unlikely as Assyria is at the zenith of its international power. But it would in fact soon fall—to the Babylonians.

ZEPHANIAH		
A.	Chapter 1	The Day of the LORD
B.	2:1 - 3:8	Judgment on the nations
C.	3:9-20	Restoration through the remnant

Zephaniah preached in Judah before the revival under good *King Josiah*; in fact, his ministry was probably a major factor in bringing it about. But the revival came too late to stop Judah's decline and eventual exile in Babylon.

JEREMIAH		
A.	Chapter 1	The Call of Jeremiah
B.	Chapters 2-45	Prophecies to Judah
C.	Chapters 46-51	Prophecies to Gentile Nations
D.	Chapter 52	The Fall of Jerusalem

Jeremiah's ministry spans the reigns of the *last five kings of Judah*, up to the exile. His is the *longest* book in the Bible by word-count. He was himself carried into exile, but later allowed back with the new provincial governor, Gedaliah. When Gedaliah was assassinated, some Jews fled to Egypt, fearing Babylonian reprisals. They took Jeremiah with them, against his will. His very unstructured book presents God as both *patient* and *holy*.

LAMENTATIONS		
A.	Chapter 1	1st Lament: Jeremiah mourns for Jerusalem
B.	Chapter 2	2nd Lament: God's anger over Jerusalem's sin
C.	Chapter 3	3rd Lament: Hope in the midst of affliction
D.	Chapter 4	4th Lament: God's anger is satisfied
E.	Chapter 5	5th Lament: A plea for restoration

Lamentations, written by Jeremiah, is a series of five *funeral-songs* lamenting the ruin of Jerusalem at the hand of the Babylonians.

HABAKKUK		
A.	Chapters 1-2	The prophet's PERPLEXITY
B.	Chapter 3	The prophet's PRAYER

Habakkuk records a *dialogue* between himself and God about the imminent Babylonian invasion and the exile. He asks him some stiff questions—and gets some direct answers. After this, he bows in *adoration* and waits quietly on the Lord.

Ezekiel is another of the *major* prophets. The exile took place in several waves. While Jeremiah was prophesying to the Jews still in Judah, Ezekiel was *prophesying in Babylon* to those Jews carried there in the first two waves. Jerusalem, their beloved capital, he said, would soon be razed to the ground.