



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

DECEMBER

PAUL'S LETTERS

EPHESIANS		
A.	1:1 - 3:21	The POSITION of the Christian
B.	4:1 - 6:24	The PRACTICE of the Christian

2 TIMOTHY		
A.	Chapters 1-2	Persevere in the present
B.	Chapters 3-4	Be faithful in the future

As we approach the end of this reading scheme we tackle the rest of Paul's letters. Most are written to *churches*, but a few are addressed to *individuals*: Timothy, Titus and Philemon. Some were written *from prison*: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon.

All were written to deal with *real-life issues* and to encourage the believers to remain true to the Lord Jesus and the truth he revealed. For lack of space we can only include a few book summaries here.

GENERAL LETTERS

1 PETER		
A.	1:1 - 2:10	The Christian's salvation
B.	2:11 - 3:12	Christian submission
C.	3:13 - 5:14	Suffering as a Christian

2 JOHN		
A.	1:1-6	Practise the truth
B.	1:7-13	Protect the truth

These are the remaining letters written by *authors other than Paul*: Peter, John and Jude, plus the unknown author of the letter to the Hebrews (possibly Apollos).

They were written in the troubled period leading up to the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in AD 70. During that time the churches faced the twin threats of *persecution* from outside and the growth of *heresy* inside. The writers offered guidance on how to deal with both. Many of the recipients were believers of Jewish origin.

REVELATION

REVELATION				
Part 1	Victory of CHRIST over his enemies	A.	1:1-8	Introduction
		B.	1:9 - 3:22	Seven letters dictated
		C.	4:1 - 8:1	Seven seals opened
		D.	8:2 - 11:19	Seven trumpets sounded
Part 2	Victory of THE CHURCH over her enemies	E.	12:1 - 15:4	Seven visions of conflict
		F.	15:5 - 16:21	Seven bowls poured out
		G.	17:1 - 19:10	Seven words of justice
		H.	19:11 - 21:8	Seven visions of reality
		I.	21:9 - 22:19	Seven final revelations
		J.	22:20-21	Conclusion

The last book of the Bible is different from the rest of the NT. Written by *John*—who also gave us the Gospel and three letters—it is full of *pictures* and *symbols*. The key to unlocking their meaning is to see how they are used in the OT.

The book's aim is to encourage and strengthen the believers who were facing persecution from the Roman authorities because they could not agree to the demand for emperor-

worship. When Jesus is Lord, one cannot in good conscience declare, 'Caesar is lord'.

Read this book, not to confirm your favourite prophetic scheme, but to see again that *Jesus wins in the end!*