



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

JULY

## KINGS AND PROPHETS

*2 Kings* and *2 Chronicles* continue to provide the historical baseline this month, with their accounts of the kings of Israel and Judah. Alongside those kings ministered a succession of *prophets*, whose actions and writings now begin to enter our reading scheme.

The prophets were often *foretellers* of God’s word in that they predicted future events, but they were chiefly *forthtellers*, who challenged God’s people to mend their ways in line with the covenant he had established with them.

ISAIAH		
A.	Chapters 1-35	Prophecies of Condemnation
B.	Chapters 36-39	The Hezekiah Accounts
C.	Chapters 40-66	Prophecies of Comfort

## MAJOR AND MINOR PROPHETS

**Isaiah** is the first of what we call the *major* prophets—major only in length, not importance—and we cover almost all of his book this month.

The historical middle section of Isaiah separates two others with *opposite emphases*. The first is judgmental, while the second offers hope and comfort for the future. Look out for passages that point to *Christ*.

OBADIAH		
A.	Verses 1-16	Destruction for Edom
B.	Verses 17-21	Salvation for God's people

This month we also read five of the twelve *minor prophets* (again, minor in length only).

JONAH			
A.	Chapters 1-2	Jonah's 1st Commission	Ch 1: The storm
			Ch 2: The great fish
B.	Chapters 3-4	Jonah's 2nd Commission	Ch 3: The city
			Ch 4: Lesson from the Lord

**Obadiah** deals with the animosity between the nations of *Judah* and *Edom* whose ancestors were Isaac’s two sons, Jacob and Esau, respectively.

AMOS			
A.	1:1 - 2:5	Judgment for the nations	Judgment
B.	2:6 - 6:14	Judgment for Israel	
C.	7:1 - 9:10	Five visions of Israel's judgment	
D.	9:11-15	Restoration for Israel	Hope

**Jonah** is the best-known of the minor prophets, thanks to his fishy experience.

**Amos** was a farmer in Judah who prophesied over the border in the northern kingdom of Israel, particularly in the town of *Bethel*, where the king’s residence was.

MICAH		
A.	Chapters 1-3	Imminent judgment
B.	Chapters 4-5	Ultimate blessing
C.	Chapters 6-7	Call to repentance

**Micah** prophesied in the capitals of both kingdoms: *Samaria* in Israel and *Jerusalem* in Judah.

**Hosea** prophesied in Israel—which he calls *Ephraim*,

HOSEA			
A.	Chapters 1-3	Personal affliction:	The dishonourable wife
B.	Chapters 4-14	National rejection:	The sinful people

after its largest tribe—just before the nation was taken into exile in *Assyria*. The faithlessness of his wife mirrored Israel’s faithlessness to the Lord.