

Open My Eyes

Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your Law. – Psalm 119:18

Through the Bible in a year reading guide – Abiding Savior Free Lutheran Church

December – Week 50

Completed

10 - Jonah	1-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
11 - Micah	1-7	<input type="checkbox"/>
12 - Nahum 1-3, Hab. 1-3		<input type="checkbox"/>
13 - 1 Peter	1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
14 - 1 Peter	3-5	<input type="checkbox"/>
15 - Zeph. 1-3, Hag. 1-2		<input type="checkbox"/>
16 - Zechariah	1-7	<input type="checkbox"/>

We read God's Word:

To know Him better

To love Him more

To walk in His ways

To be conformed to the image of His Son

This week's reading: six and a half books of the "Minor Prophets", plus 1 Peter. **We** first saw Jonah in 2 Kings 14:25. **His** city is mentioned in Josh. 19:13. **Some** find the account of Jonah a little "fishy", but it is a "whale" of an account revealing the character of God 😊. Watch for reoccurring words: "great", "perish", and "appointed". **Jesus** quoted and made reference to books of the Old Testament as authoritative. He also promised the Holy Spirit's help in writing the New Testament (John 14:26). The authority of the Bible firmly rests upon the person of Jesus Christ! He affirmed the book of Jonah twice (Matt. 12:39-41; 16:4; and a parallel in Luke 11:29-32). **Jonah** teaches us God has compassion on all who repent and turn to Him. **Micah** (3:12) was quoted in Jer. 26:18. He tells of Yahweh's reign (4:1-7), Messiah's birthplace (5:2), and God's expectation (6:6-8). **Nahum's** prophesy is directed against Nineveh. **Habakkuk** has a great message regarding wickedness and violence: God will judge; and He can use godless nations to do it. He tells us, "the righteous will live by his faith/faithfulness" (2:4). Someday the "earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of Yahweh as the waters cover the sea" (2:14). His final verses (3:17-19) express trust and rejoicing in Yahweh in uncertain times. **1 Peter** was written from Rome (called "Babylon" in 5:13). 1:1-2 begins with a statement revealing the work of the Trinity, that we are chosen by the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, that we may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood. He gives encouragement about looming persecution by reminding us of God's great mercy and salvation, the call to be holy, and the permanence of God's Word. We are to first sanctify Christ as Lord in our hearts, and then be ready to make a defense for the hope we have. He shares practical things for life and for church leadership. **Zephaniah** was a great, great, grandson of Hezekiah (1:1) and prophesies against Judah and her enemies, but ends (3:9-20) with promises of blessing, joy, and restoration. Notice God's desire in 3:7 was that they would fear Him so their dwelling would not be cut off as He punished, yet the people's response was to "corrupt all their deeds". How sad. Their dwellings were destroyed and they were taken to Babylon. **Haggai** prophesied after they returned from Babylon; God used him to encourage the people to rebuild the temple. **Zechariah's** first six chapters have a series of visions; the remaining are prophetic messages to the people.

Insights from the Original Biblical Languages (Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic):

Jonah means "dove"; Micah "Who (is) as Yahweh"; Nahum "Comfort"; Zephaniah "Yahweh hides/protects"; Haggai "My feast"; Zechariah "Yahweh Remembered". **Fun fact:** Zeph. 3:8 contains every Hebrew alphabet letter (even the five final forms). **English** versions differ in 1 Pet. 3:14 in his quote from Is. 8:12: don't fear them, or, don't fear their threats), the Greek text says that we are not to fear "their fear" (what they are afraid of) which is closer to the Hebrew text of Is. 8:12 "and his fear you will not fear" (in the context of "conspiracy"). A note of encouragement from a wooden translation of 1 Pet. 5:7, "casting all your anxiety upon him, because to Him, it matters, concerning you."

How has God revealed Himself in this week's reading? What has He shown me this week?

Jonah is more about God's character than it is about Jonah. **Messiah** is God (Micah 5:2) because only God is eternal. **He** forgives iniquity, does not hold His anger forever, delights in lovingkindness, has compassion, treads down our iniquities, casts sins into the depths of the sea, gives truth and lovingkindness (Micah 7:18-20). **Against** His enemies, He is jealous, avenging, a master/owner of wrath, taking vengeance on ones hostile to Him, yet slow to anger, great in power, but will not clear the guilty; He is good, a stronghold, He knows the ones taking refuge in Him, and will make a complete end of those hostile to Him (Nahum 1:2,3,7,8). He is loving to those who believe in Him and has wrath against those who make themselves His enemies. This contrast, that God is "just" and "justifier" (Rom. 3:25-26): He made grace and forgiveness available to us because He had justice against sin through the sacrifice of Jesus.