



# Through the Bible in a Year

a chronological study of the Bible for women

Isaiah 1-12

Amos

2 Chron. 27-28

2 Kings 16-17

## Week 28

### Daily Reading Plan:

\_\_ Isaiah 1-8

\_\_ Amos 1-5

\_\_ Amos 6-9

\_\_ 2 Chron.27

\_\_ Isaiah 9-12

\_\_ Micah

\_\_ 2 Chron.28

\_\_ 2 Kings 16-17

\_\_ REST\*

\*Use this day to meditate on the week's Scripture reading. If needed, use it to catch up or read ahead.

### Next week:

Isaiah 13-27

2 Kings 18:1-8

2 Chron.29-31

Psalms 48

Hosea

### MEMORY VERSE:

He has showed you, O man, what is **GOOD**.

And what does the **Lord REQUIRE** of you?

To **act justly** and to **LOVE mercy**

and to **walk HUMBLY** WITH your **God**.

Micah 6:8

### GOD'S PRESENCE Isaiah 6

To experience it is to be forever changed, because to "see" God with any of the senses is to also see who we really are. It can be crushing and devastating to have our appearances of goodness crumble before His holiness. All of our feeble pretenses become useless. Nothing false can stand before Him. Everything that we have counted on about ourselves is turned to ashes and nothing remains but Him. Our view of self and our view of the world is first shattered and then redefined with Him at the center. There is nothing but His glory. There isn't room for anything else because the whole earth is FULL of His glory. Even the seraphs in Isaiah 6:2 covered their faces even though their very name means "burning" or "fiery" (esword). If fiery beings had to cover their faces in God's Holy Presence, it's no wonder that Isaiah responded as he did.

What brought Isaiah to the point of experiencing God's Presence? \_\_\_\_\_

What was Isaiah's response in Isaiah 6:5? \_\_\_\_\_

How did Peter respond to his sudden understanding of Jesus in Luke 5:8? \_\_\_\_\_

When was a time that you had a similar realization of God's glory? \_\_\_\_\_

How did you feel when you realized your guilt? \_\_\_\_\_

But the part that really astounds me is what comes next for both of these men. Awareness of how far short they fall of God's glory initially made them uncomfortable with God's Presence, but that isn't where they stayed for long. What made Isaiah ready and willing to do whatever God asked of him? \_\_\_\_\_

That is the important difference between shame and humility. Shame stops with the unclean lips. Humility presses forward with lips that have been refined. Shame says "I'm not here". Humility says "Here am I. Send me." What a difference!

## ASSYRIA 2 Kings 16 and 17

To really understand this section of Scripture we are going to have to have a short lesson in Assyrian history. We see the beginnings of Assyria way back in Genesis 10:11-12, but it wasn't until around the rule of Omri, king of Israel (885-874 B.C.) that we see the Assyrian nation really beginning to come into power. **Assurnasirpal II** was the Assyrian ruler at that time (883-859 B.C.). He documented his push toward the Mediterranean by filling the walls of his palace at Calah with scenes and words of destruction and cruelty.

"I built a pillar over against his city gate, and I flayed all the chief men...and I covered the pillar with their skins...some I impaled upon the pillar on stakes, and ...cut off the limbs of the officers...Many captives I burned with fire, and many I took as living captives. From some I cut off their hands and from others I cut off their noses, their ears, and their fingers, of many I put out the eyes. I made one pillar of the living, and another of heads, and I bound their heads to posts round about the city..." (Hoerth and McRay 48-53)

During the last years of Ahab, **Shalmaneser III** gained the throne of Assyria. Now we have the first battle between Ahab, in a coalition of 12 kings, and Shalmaneser III, though this is a battle not mentioned in the Bible. The next encounter took place at the beginning of Jehu's reign over Israel (841-814 B.C.) when



siege was laid to Damascus. The city did not fall and the Assyrian army moved on south to Mount Carmel where they received tribute from Tyre, Sidon and Jehu. Jehu's tribute is commemorated on a 6 ½ foot obelisk from Assyria (panel replicated to the left), but is not mentioned in the Bible. Jehoahaz was the next king of Israel (814-798 B.C.) during the reign of **Adad-nirari III**, Shalmaneser III's grandson. **Tiglath-pileser III** boasted of the tribute he imposed on Menahem, king of Israel from 752-742 B.C. The rich men of Israel were allowed to remain free by paying fifty shekels each, the going price that they would

have brought on the slave market.. Syria and Pekah, king of Israel, joined forces to try to take control of Judah. How did King Ahaz of Judah respond in 2 Kings 16:5-9? \_\_\_\_\_

What was Isaiah's view of this action (Isaiah 7:4-17 and 8:4-8)? \_\_\_\_\_

What happened to Ahaz (2 Chron. 28:16-22)? \_\_\_\_\_

Tiglath-pileser III is credited with being the first to implement a policy of deportation. By relocating those who were conquered to distant places, they were less likely to revolt, but could still pay tribute. Hoshea assassinated Pekah and became king of Israel. **Shalmaneser V** inherited the throne of Assyria from his father, and got Hoshea back in line. What happened in 2 Kings 17:1-6 that made Hoshea the last king of Israel? \_\_\_\_\_

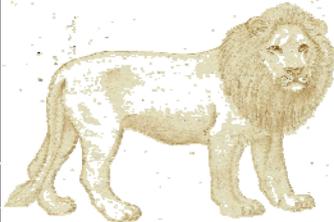
The Bible only says "king of Assyria" here, but Sargon II claimed credit for this event that according to his records involved 27,290 inhabitants. What explanation does 2 Kings 17:7 give for that event? \_\_\_\_\_

Why was Judah not included? \_\_\_\_\_

**"They followed worthless idols and themselves became worthless." 2Kings 17:15**

In fact, it would be another 136 years before Judah would be conquered!

Where did the new inhabitants for Israel come from (2 Kings 17:24)? \_\_\_\_\_



What problem did they encounter in 2 Kings 17:25? \_\_\_\_\_

What solution did the Assyrian king come up with? \_\_\_\_\_

How well did the attempt work out? \_\_\_\_\_

**"Woe to the Assyrian, the rod of my anger, in whose hand is the club of my wrath! I send him against a godless nation, I dispatch him against a people who anger me, to seize loot and snatch plunder, and to trample them down like mud in the streets. But this is not what he intends, this is not what he has in mind; his purpose is to destroy, to put an end to many nations. Isaiah 10:5-7**

## THE LIFE OF A PROPHET

Prophetic messages weren't always easy to hear. I suspect that they may have been even harder to speak. Imagine the courage that it must have taken. Imagine the burden of being called to deliver such unwelcome messages.

Isaiah, Amos and Micah all foretold future events, but the various words used for prophesy in each of these books actually has more to do with inspired speaking than with foretelling the future. Whether a review of past events, a rebuke for present events, or a warning or promise about the future, the key was that they were speaking the words that God wanted to be spoken.

We are still called to speak up. There are still times that a rebuke is in order and there is still a need to review the things that God has done. We still need to be reminding others of God's promises, and of God's warnings.

What is the hardest part of that calling for you?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Elie Wiesel, 1986 Nobel Peace Prize winner and Holocaust survivor, challenges all of us with this statement (Schippe and Stetson 132):

***“To remain silent and indifferent is the greatest sin of all.”***

Do you think that is consistent with what God would say to us today? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## A FAMINE OF SILENCE

**"The days are coming," declares the Sovereign Lord, "when I will send a famine through the land-- not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the Lord. Amos 8:11**

What would bring about this kind of famine?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Could that ever happen to us? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How much would you miss having God's Words? \_\_\_\_\_

## USELESS SACRIFICES

Why did God say that He took no pleasure in the "multitude of sacrifices" in Isaiah 1:11?

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What does God object to in Amos 5:21-24?

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What does God want that goes beyond sacrifices in Micah 6:6-8? \_\_\_\_\_

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Which is easier to do? \_\_\_\_\_

How can following a list of requirements for sacrifice or service be dangerous to our faith?

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\_\_\_\_\_

What are some of the "sacrifices" that you put before "walking humbly" with your God? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Beware of those things that set you apart on the outside so that you become comfortable not being transformed on the inside.

## THE COWS OF BASHAN

**Hear this word, you cows of Bashan on Mount Samaria, you women who oppress the poor and crush the needy and say to your husbands, "Bring us some drinks!"**

**Amos 4:1**

Before I ask whether you think this applies to you and me, just consider:

- 8 billion dollars a year are spent on cosmetics, for 9 billion dollars everyone in the world could have clean drinking water.
- Half of the world's population lives on less than the equivalent of \$2 per day, well under the U.S. poverty line. Yet, less than 2% of North Americans give money to a charity.
- 30 million people will starve this year. In the U.S. we are trying to figure out how to battle obesity. (statistics from 2100 Productions)

## PUZZLE CLUES (taken from the NIV translation)

### Across

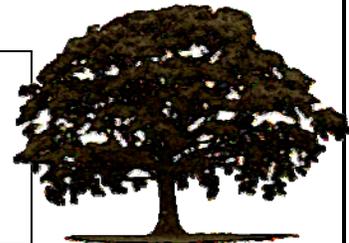
1. what Judah rejected Amos 2:4
5. where the Israelite exiles were settled 2 Kings 17:6
7. the head of Ephraim Isaiah 7:9
9. king of Judah in Amos' day Amos 1:1
12. people who warned Israel 2 Kings 17:13
14. "Let us walk in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord" Isaiah 2:5
15. stop bringing meaningless ones Isaiah 1:13
17. shepherd of Tekoa Amos 1:1
18. the beginning of sin Micah 1:13
21. what the lion will eat Isaiah 11:7
24. rod of God's anger Isaiah 10:5
25. where the Israelites will be rescued Micah 4:10
26. was filled with smoke Isaiah 6:4
29. "For to us a child is \_\_\_\_\_" Isaiah 9:6
31. the country of Judah Isaiah 1:7
32. what the king of Assyria will be punished for Isaiah 10:12
33. color of sin Isaiah 1:18
35. beaten into plowshares Micah 4:3
37. what those who remain in Jerusalem will be called Isaiah 4:3
41. what the Light of Israel will become Isaiah 10:17
42. from Moresheth Micah 1:1
43. what a leopard will lie down with Isaiah 11:6
44. when the Israelites will be uprooted again Amos 9:15
46. the result of lack of understanding Isaiah 5:13
47. last king of Israel 2 Kings 17:1-6

### Down

2. sacrificed his son in the fire 2 Kings 16:3
3. will become desolate Micah 7:13
4. in the streets and vineyards Amos 5:16,17
5. what the women of Zion are Isaiah 3:16
6. will be honored in the future Isaiah 9:1
8. put to death by Assyria 2 Kings 16:9
10. Jotham's mother 2 Chron. 27:1
11. \_\_\_\_\_ are from ancient times Micah 5:2
13. we don't know the Lord's Micah 4:12
16. fire will be sent on these walls Amos 1:7
18. were killing the people in Samaria 2 Kings 17:25
19. Isaiah's vision concerned this city Isaiah 1:1
20. head of Aram Isaiah 7:8
22. age of Ahaz when he became king Micah 16:2
23. what is to be remembered Micah 6:5
25. what God will raise for the nations Isaiah 11:12
27. devoured the fig and olive trees Amos 4:9
28. what the women of Zion will become Isaiah 3:17
30. God's is revealed to the prophets Amos 3:7
32. trampled on Amos 2:7
34. what God will do with impurities Isaiah 1:25
36. touched Isaiah's lips with a live coal Isaiah 6:6
38. place of exile for Aram Amos 1:5
39. " \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord and live" Amos 5:6
40. will come up from the stump of Jesse Isaiah 11:1
42. what God delights in Micah 7:18
45. woe to those who call this good Isaiah 5:20



For comments or questions,  
contact me at  
[victoryrd@hotmail.com](mailto:victoryrd@hotmail.com)  
or for more studies visit  
[www.downvictoryrd.com](http://www.downvictoryrd.com)





# PUZZLE PAGE

WEEK 28



Isaiah's wife is referred to as a prophetess. Do you think she was actually a prophet too, or do you think it just referred to being married to a prophet? \_\_\_\_\_



## A FIG TREE IN EVERY YARD Micah 4:1-8

Whether it's a chicken in every pot or the war to end all wars, we long for peace and prosperity.

When will that day come? \_\_\_\_\_

What are some things that Micah says will come in the meantime?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## A MODERN DAY AMOS

On the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery Alabama, a quote from Martin Luther King Jr. is displayed:

“...until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.”

Which verse in Amos 5 is that a paraphrase of? \_\_\_\_\_

Amos's message to the people of Israel dealt with social injustice, religious arrogance and the punishment that would follow. King encouraged others to follow the example of Amos in their quest for social reform. (Schippe and Stetson 129-130)



**WANT TO READ WHAT I READ?**

**GOD'S PRESENCE** p. 1

Meyers, Rick. e-Sword. 17 May 2007 <http://www.e-sword.net>.

**ASSYRIA** p. 2

Hoerth, Alfred, and John McRay. Bible Archaeology. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2005.

**THE LIFE OF A PROPHET** p. 3

Schippe, Cullen, and Chuck Stetson. The Bible and Its Influence. Front Royal, VA: BLP Publishing, 2006.

**THE COWS OF BASHAN** p. 3

Documentary on Poverty. 2100 Productions. Urbana 2000 Videos. March 23, 2006

**A MODERN DAY AMOS?** p. 5

Schippe, Cullen, and Chuck Stetson. The Bible and Its Influence. Front Royal, VA: BLP Publishing, 2006.

**DESPISING GOD'S WORD** p. 6

Meyers, Rick. e-Sword. 17 May 2007 <http://www.e-sword.net>.

Name the kings of Israel and Judah who were mentioned in this week's reading.  
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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**HIDING FROM GOD** Amos 9

According to Amos 9, where can we hide from God? \_\_\_\_\_

We may not try to hide in the same ways that Jonah did, but we probably do some things just as foolish.

What are some ways that you have tried to "hide" from God? \_\_\_\_\_

What happened? \_\_\_\_\_

**STRONGHOLDS** Micah 5

What were some of the Israelite's strongholds? \_\_\_\_\_

What was going to happen to them? \_\_\_\_\_

**DESPISING GOD'S WORD** Amos 2:4

I can't imagine any of us feeling that we could despise God's Word, but among the definitions of the Hebrew are disappear, and melt away (esword). The absence of God's word in our life, or even our neglect of knowing it, shows a lack of importance that equals despising.

