



2023 BELMONT CHURCH BIBLE STUDY READING MEMORIZATION REFLECTION JOURNALING PLAN



BELMONT 2023 READING PLAN OVERVIEW

We are excited that you are walking through the Bible with us this year.

At Belmont, we are committed to being anchored in the Word and led by the Spirit.

Our goal is love and joy as promised by Jesus in John 15:9-11 when He said, "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. *Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*"

This is our hope in learning to abide in His love:

1. We want to invest in **reading** the whole context of the Bible.
2. We want to **memorize** Scripture so we can apply it to our lives.
3. We want to **reflect** on Scripture so we can pray and abide.
4. We want to **journal** about what the Lord is teaching us from His word.
5. We want to summarize the week in a **magnificat** by combining verses.

READING PLAN SCHEDULE

Here is how this reading plan is organized:

1. **There are eight sessions** laid out in approximately 40-day sections.
2. Each week includes **five days of reading**. There is an optional reading that relates to the theme of the week.
3. Each session will include Old and New Testament readings with key verses to reflect on and a passage to memorize as a church family:
 1. Jan 2 - Feb 21 - **In the Beginning** - An Overview of the Old Testament
 2. Feb 26 - April 7 - **Follow Me** - The Life of Jesus in the Gospels
 3. April 10 - May 28 - **We are Witnesses** - The study of Acts and Connected Letters
 4. May 29 - July 30 - **I Shall not Want** - Poetry and Praise
 5. **JULY 31 - SEPT 24 - For Such a Time as This** - Stories of Courage
 6. **Sept 25 - Oct 22 - Be Careful - Old Testament Exhortations to WALK CAREFULLY IN THE LORD**
 7. **Oct 22 - Nov 19 - THE TIME IS NEAR- The End and the New Beginning**
 8. Nov 26 - Dec 31 - **Consider Jesus** - A Life of Grace

SESSION THEME - "THE TIME IS NEAR"

THE TIME IS NEAR! I know there are no coincidences in the kingdom of God, so it should come to no surprise that our theme, "The End is Near" was the theme for THIS SESSION since the beginning of the year. (Seriously, look it up in your past sessions). The timing couldn't be any more helpful and significant with all that is happening in Israel. Let's be honest, it is challenging to understand prophecy throughout the Bible. It seems every commentator and teacher has a different opinion. However, while it may be confusing, we shouldn't give up reading these important passages. Each passage should be read to encourage and exhort us in remembering that this world is not our home and Jesus is coming back. There is something sobering and motivating when we truly process that at any moment all the prophecies could be true in our lifetime and maybe even in this generation. What if Jesus were coming back in decade or even in this year? How would it change how we live our life? How would it alter how we spend our days?

MEMORIZE

Each week includes a passage to memorize that connects to the theme of the week. Our hope is that these short verses will be both practical and helpful in your walk with Jesus. We encourage a consistent rhythm of reviewing and meditating on the verses.

TAKING TIME TO P.R.A.Y.

We share this acronym as a model for how to engage in prayer and hear from God. We have added it to the weekly rhythm of our Bible Reading Plan.

Pause: This represents setting aside time to worship and silence in adoration of God. It involves acknowledging God's greatness, goodness, and sovereignty.

Rejoice: This refers to centering your heart with rejoicing and gratitude for all that God has and will continue to bless you with. Find your joy in God.

Ask: This refers to making requests or supplications to God. It involves bringing our needs, desires, and concerns before Him in prayer.

Yield: This means surrendering to God's will and guidance. It's about aligning our desires and actions with God's purposes. This involves confessing and turning away from sins. It's about seeking forgiveness and a change of heart towards God and others.

JOURNAL & REFLECTION

How is God speaking to you and how do you need to obey? What insights is the Spirit showing you? Take time to journal your thoughts on the Scriptures. Journaling is a powerful tool for growth in your relationship with God. We are also asking a reflection question at the end of each week.

OUTLINE AND BOOK NOTES

We have provided some outline and bible notes adapted from ChatGTP notes.

BELMONT 2023 READING PLAN

SESSION 7: WEEK 1 (OCTOBER 22)

BIBLE STUDY READING PLAN - END TIME PASSAGES

Jeremiah, Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Joel are prophetic books found in the Old Testament of the Bible, each offering unique insights into end times events.

Jeremiah's prophecies often highlight the consequences of disobedience and the eventual restoration of God's people. **Isaiah**, known for his vivid imagery, foretells a future where righteousness prevails and a new heaven and earth emerge. **Ezekiel's** writings delve into apocalyptic visions, detailing symbolic representations of God's judgment and restoration. **Joel**, on the other hand, focuses on the Day of the Lord, a time of both judgment and divine intervention. Together, these prophets provide a mosaic of perspectives on the end times, emphasizing the importance of repentance, faithfulness, and the ultimate triumph of God's plan for humanity. Studying their writings can offer valuable insights for navigating the complexities of our modern world with a sense of hope and purpose.

FINISHED

Is. 2 & 11

Is. 24, 65-66

Jer. 30-33

Ezek. 38-39

Joel 1-3

Extra Reading: Hosea 1-3

PROPHETS: AN OVERVIEW AND TIMELINE

Jeremiah, Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Joel were written during a critical period in ancient Israel's history.

Jeremiah, active from around 626 to 586 BCE, prophesied during a tumultuous time when the Southern Kingdom of Judah faced impending destruction by the Babylonians due to their disobedience to God.

Isaiah, spanning from the 8th to the 6th century BCE, addressed various periods, including the Assyrian threat and the Babylonian exile, offering words of both warning and hope.

Ezekiel, writing in the 6th century BCE, ministered to the exiled Israelites in Babylon, providing them with a message of hope, restoration, and divine sovereignty amid their despair.

Joel's book, written around the same time, centers on a locust plague, which he interprets as a harbinger of the Day of the Lord, a future event of judgment and restoration.

These prophetic writings serve as a spiritual compass for understanding the historical context, moral challenges, and enduring promises of God, offering timeless wisdom and guidance for believers throughout the ages.

MEMORIZE

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 - For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

P.R.A.Y - PAUSE-REJOICE-ASK-YIELD

PAUSE

REJOICE

ASK

YIELD

JOURNAL AND REFLECTIONS

BELMONT 2023 READING PLAN

SESSION 7: WEEK 2 (OCTOBER 29)

BIBLE STUDY READING PLAN - END TIME PASSAGES

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Amos, Micah, and Zephaniah, all prophets in the Old Testament, contribute to the biblical narrative of end times with distinctive perspectives. Amos emphasized God's impending judgment on Israel for their social injustices and moral decay, offering a sobering reminder of accountability in the final reckoning. Micah prophesied the ultimate triumph of God's justice and mercy, envisioning a time when nations would seek the Lord's guidance and live in harmony. Zephaniah focused on the Day of the Lord, a period of divine intervention and judgment, emphasizing the importance of humility and righteousness in preparing for that event. Together, their writings highlight themes of judgment and restoration, urging believers to heed God's call for repentance and to eagerly anticipate the ultimate fulfillment of His redemptive plan in the end times.	
Amos 5-7	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amos 8-9	<input type="checkbox"/>
Micah 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Micah 4-5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Zeph. 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Extra Reading: Haggai 1-2	

PROPHETS: AN OVERVIEW AND TIMELINE

Amos, Micah, and Zephaniah were prophets in the Old Testament who lived and prophesied during the 8th and 7th centuries BCE.

Amos, a shepherd from Tekoa, prophesied in the Northern Kingdom of Israel during a period of relative prosperity but widespread moral decay. His mission was to call the people back to a genuine and transformative relationship with God, emphasizing the need for justice and righteousness.

Micah, a contemporary of Amos, likewise delivered prophetic messages during this era, addressing issues of corruption, oppression, and false worship. He envisioned a future where God's justice would prevail and lead to an era of peace.

Zephaniah, prophesying towards the end of the 7th century BCE, confronted a nation on the brink of judgment. His writings emphasized the imminent "Day of the Lord," a time of reckoning and purification.

MEMORIZE

2 Timothy 4:7-8 - I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

P.R.A.Y - PAUSE-REJOICE-ASK-YIELD

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JOURNAL AND REFLECTION

BELMONT 2023 READING PLAN

SESSION 7: WEEK 3 - NOVEMBER 5

BIBLE STUDY READING PLAN - ZECHARIAH

The book of Zechariah provides profound insights into end times events through a series of vivid visions and prophecies. Zechariah's imagery-rich writing style paints a picture of a future where God's redemptive plan unfolds, culminating in the establishment of His eternal kingdom. His visions encompass themes of spiritual renewal, the coming of the Messiah, and the ultimate triumph of righteousness over evil. Zechariah's message is not only a source of hope for the future but also a call to present-day mindfulness. It urges us to live in alignment with God's principles, fostering a deeper awareness of our spiritual journey and a commitment to righteousness. By studying Zechariah we can glean valuable lessons about perseverance, faith, and the enduring promise of God's ultimate victory.	FINISHED
	Zech 1-2. <input type="checkbox"/>
	Zech. 3-4 <input type="checkbox"/>
	Zech. 5-7 <input type="checkbox"/>
	Zech. 8-11 <input type="checkbox"/>
Extra Reading Romans 11-13	Zech. 12-14 <input type="checkbox"/>

ZECHARIAH: AN OVERVIEW AND TIMELINE

The Book of **Zechariah**, one of the twelve Minor Prophets in the Old Testament, is a collection of prophetic visions and messages delivered by the prophet Zechariah.

Zechariah can be divided into two main sections:

Chapters 1-8 primarily contain a series of visions and oracles encouraging the restoration of Jerusalem. Chapters 9-14 focus on messianic prophecies and the ultimate victory of God's kingdom.

Here is a brief overview and timeline of the Book of Zechariah:

539-520 BCE: Babylonian Exile Ends and Return to Jerusalem: In 539 BCE, the Persian king Cyrus the Great conquers Babylon and issues a decree allowing the Jewish exiles to return to their homeland. This marks the end of the Babylonian Exile.

520-518 BCE: Zechariah's Prophecies: Zechariah likely prophesied during this time, as indicated in Zechariah 1:1. He ministered alongside Haggai, encouraging the returned exiles to resume and complete the construction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem.

Messianic Prophecies and Ultimate Victory (Chapters 9-14):

Oracles Against Israel's Enemies (Chapters 9-11): These oracles pronounce judgment on surrounding nations and foreshadow the coming of the Messiah.

Prophecies about the Messiah (Chapters 12-14): Zechariah speaks of a future day when the Messiah will come to Jerusalem, be rejected, and then ultimately establish His kingdom, bringing about a time of universal peace and worship of God.

MEMORIZE

Romans 13:11 - Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.

P.R.A.Y - PAUSE-REJOICE-ASK-YIELD

PAUSE

REJOICE

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YIELD

JOURNAL AND REFLECTIONS

BELMONT 2023 READING PLAN

SESSION 7: WEEK 4 - (NOVEMBER 12)

BIBLE STUDY READING PLAN - REVELATION

The Book of **Revelation**, the final chapter of the Bible, may seem daunting, especially when delving into discussions about the end times. However, it holds profound relevance for our lives, particularly in understanding and preparing for the culmination of human history. Written by the apostle John, Revelation unveils a series of visionary messages that convey the ultimate triumph of God's kingdom over evil. It serves as a powerful reminder that, despite the uncertainties and challenges we may face, God is in complete control of the future. This book urges us to approach life with a sense of purpose, moral integrity, and unwavering faith, especially as we consider the potential realities of the end times. It calls us to live with a heightened awareness of our spiritual journey, emphasizing the need for repentance, steadfastness, and an eager anticipation of Christ's return. Ultimately, Revelation offers comfort and assurance that, no matter what unfolds in the end times, those who remain faithful will ultimately find eternal peace and joy in the presence of God

FINISHED

Rev. 1-3

Rev. 4-7

Rev. 8-11

Rev. 12-14

Rev. 15-18

Extra Reading Ezek. 36-40

OVERVIEW AND TIMELINE: REVELATION

Revelation is full of vivid images and symbols that may seem a bit mysterious at first. But the key message is actually quite clear: no matter how tough things get, God is in charge, and in the end, good will triumph over evil. It's like a promise to all of us that, no matter what we face in life, God has a plan to bring about ultimate peace and justice.

Timeline of Revelation:

John's Vision on the Island of Patmos (around 95 AD): John, who was an older man by this time, had a vision while he was on an island called Patmos.

Messages to Seven Churches (Revelation 2-3): John wrote letters to seven churches, encouraging them to stay faithful and make positive changes in their ways of living and believing.

Visions of Heaven and Earth (Revelation 4-5): John saw a breathtaking vision of God's throne in heaven, surrounded by angels and elders. It showed that God is in control of everything.

The Unfolding of the Future (Revelation 6-18): John saw many more visions that revealed what would happen in the future. There were seals, trumpets, and bowls - all symbolic of different events that would take place.

MEMORIZE

Revelation 1:3 - Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

P.R.A.Y - PAUSE-REJOICE-ASK-YIELD

PAUSE

REJOICE

ASK

YIELD

JOURNAL AND REFLECT

BELMONT 2023 READING PLAN

SESSION 7: WEEK 5 - (NOVEMBER 19)

BIBLE STUDY READING PLAN - NEW TESTAMENT PASSAGES

Revelation paints a vivid, symbolic picture of the ultimate triumph of good over evil, depicting a new and perfect world under God's reign. **2 Peter** emphasizes the certainty of Jesus' return, urging believers to live righteously and be vigilant against misleading teachings. **1 Thessalonians** offers comfort to those mourning, assuring them of a future reunion with departed loved ones, and stresses the importance of living in a way that pleases God in anticipation of Jesus' return. **Matthew** records Jesus' teachings on signs preceding His return and the need for readiness, highlighting the accountability of all people in the final judgment. **Jude** addresses false teachings and encourages believers to stand firm in their faith, emphasizing God's judgment on those who reject His truth. While these books vary in style and imagery, they share a common message of hope, preparedness, and the ultimate victory of God's goodness in the end times.

FINISHED

Rev 19-22

2 Peter 1-3

1 Thess. 4-5

Matt. 23-24

Jude 1

Extra Reading: Luke 21, Acts 1

Revelation 19 portrays the triumphant return of Christ, who defeats the forces of evil and establishes His rule on earth. In Revelation 20-22, the final judgment takes place, followed by the creation of a new heaven and earth, where God dwells with His people in eternal peace and glory.

In **2 Peter 1-3**, the author emphasizes the importance of living godly lives and growing in spiritual maturity as believers await the Day of the Lord, when the heavens and earth will be purified by fire. He warns against scoffers who doubt this event, urging steadfastness in faith and a readiness for the coming of a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness will dwell.

In **1st Thessalonians 4-5**, Paul comforts the believers about the fate of those who have died in Christ, assuring them of a future resurrection and reunion. He also emphasizes the imminence of the Day of the Lord, urging them to be watchful, sober-minded, and prepared for Christ's return and the ultimate consummation of God's kingdom.

Matthew 23 contains Jesus' sharp rebuke of the religious leaders for their hypocrisy and neglect of justice, culminating in a lament over Jerusalem. In Matthew 24, known as the Olivet Discourse, Jesus provides signs of the end times, warns of false messiahs, and emphasizes the need for readiness and faithfulness in anticipation of His return and the ultimate fulfillment of God's kingdom.

The Book of Jude issues a stern warning about ungodly individuals infiltrating the church, and it underscores the certainty of judgment for their wickedness. It highlights the need for believers to stand firm in the faith, maintain godly living, and eagerly anticipate the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life in the face of impending judgment.

MEMORIZE

1 Peter 4:7 - The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.

P.R.A.Y - PAUSE-REJOICE-ASK-YIELD

PAUSE

REJOICE

ASK

YIELD

JOURNAL AND REFLECT

BIBLE VERSES WITH "THE TIME IS NEAR" THEME

Matthew 24:32-35 - From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Mark 13:28-31 - From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Luke 21:28 - Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.

Romans 13:11-12 - Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

Philippians 4:5 - Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand.

James 5:7-9 - Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.

1 Peter 4:7 - The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.

Revelation 1:3 - Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

Revelation 22:10 - And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near."

BIBLICAL PROPHECY CONCERNING ISRAEL

According to various interpretations of biblical prophecy, there are several key end times events that are often associated with Israel:

- 1. Restoration of Israel:** Many prophecies in the Old Testament speak of a future restoration of Israel, where the Jewish people will return to their land (e.g. Ezekiel 36:24-28).
- 2. Rebuilding of the Temple:** Some interpretations suggest that a third Jewish temple will be built in Jerusalem before or during the end times (e.g. Ezekiel 40-43).
- 3. Reign of the Antichrist:** It is believed by some that a figure known as the Antichrist will arise, making a covenant with Israel, but later betraying them (e.g. Daniel 9:27).
- 4. Great Tribulation:** This period of intense persecution and distress is often associated with the end times. It is believed to be a time of trial for Israel and the world (e.g. Matthew 24:21-22).
- 5. Battle of Armageddon:** This is a prophesied end times conflict involving many nations that culminates in a battle near the ancient city of Megiddo in Israel (e.g. Revelation 16:16).
- 6. Spiritual Awakening for Israel:** Some prophecies suggest that during the end times, there will be a significant turning of the Jewish people towards faith in Jesus as their Messiah (e.g. Romans 11:25-27).
- 7. Return of the Messiah (Second Coming):** It is widely anticipated that Jesus will return to the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, establishing His rule and reign over the entire earth (e.g. Zechariah 14:4-9).
- 8. Judgment of the Nations:** Many believe that during the return of Christ, there will be a judgment of the nations, including how they treated Israel (e.g. Matthew 25:31-46).
- 9. Millennial Kingdom:** Some interpretations posit a literal 1,000-year reign of Christ on earth, during which time Israel will experience unprecedented peace and prosperity (e.g. Revelation 20:4-6).
- 10. New Jerusalem:** The vision of a heavenly city, often associated with a glorified Jerusalem, is described in Revelation 21, indicating the eternal state of God's people.



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