



Nahum - Malachi



Reading the Bible Together

March 2016

What is 'In Sync' Bible Reading?

'In Sync' encourages us to read together through the Bible, and then reflect together on what we have read from God's Word. We consider the main message and the key themes of a whole book (or books) of the Bible, and then we can share with others what we have learnt through our Bible reading.

'I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.' (Psalm 119:16)

Questions to consider

Reading the Bible does not have to be an intellectual study. Anyone can read the Bible and by God's grace understand it. The main thing is that we pray for God's help as we read.

Here are some questions to help you think through what you are reading:

1. What have I learnt about God and about Jesus?
2. What does this teach me about humanity and myself?
3. What has most encouraged me from this book?
4. How does this teach me to love the Lord my God with all my heart, soul and mind? (Matt 22:37-40)
5. How does this teach me to love my neighbour as myself? (Matt 22:37-40)
6. Is there anything else I should learn here to be 'equipped for every good work' (2 Tim 3:17)

Nahum

c650BC, Nahum prophesies the destruction of Nineveh, the Assyrian capital, freeing Judah from its oppressive power.

Habakkuk

c625BC, Habakkuk questions God, wondering why evil often goes unpunished, and why God is going to use a wicked nation (Babylon) to punish Judah. He is assured that God will ultimately triumph.

Zephaniah

c625BC, Zephaniah speaks about the great Day of the LORD which will bring both judgment for all who oppose God and blessing for those who humble themselves and trust in the LORD.

Haggai

In 520BC, the exiles have returned from Babylon, but they have left the temple (God's house) in ruins while they get on with rebuilding their own houses and livelihoods. Haggai calls them to consider their ways.

Zechariah

Zechariah was a priest who returned to Jerusalem from Babylon in 538BC and began his ministry in 520BC. Zechariah has a series of night visions (Chapters 1-6) and then two oracles in Chapters 9-14.

Malachi

c450BC there are many failings within the post-exilic community. Malachi urges repentance and offers hope for the future.

How to read?

There are 29 chapters, so you could read a chapter a day for a month.

In-Sync for April

Esther, Ruth, Lamentations and Daniel