

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH
BIBLE STUDY – CHRISTIANITY 101

TUESDAY, May 13, 2025

Stan Campbell, *Bible to Go: Genesis to Revelation in One Hour*, (New York: Faith Words, 2006)

Isaiah - Isaiah describes a magnificent vision he has when God first calls him to be a prophet (Isaiah 6). His outlook on the future includes both short-term events (the fall of Israel to the Assyrians and the eventual fall of Judah to the Babylonians) and long-range prophecies about the coming Messiah. Some of his more popular messianic predictions are found in Isaiah 7:14, 9:1-7, 11:1-9, and 53:1-12. His writings are frequently quoted in the New Testament (I.e., Isa. 1:9; Romans 9:29; Isa. 5:9; James 5:4).

Jeremiah - Jeremiah is sometimes called “the weeping prophet.” His message of coming judgement is not a popular one. At least once his scroll of prophecies is burned (Jeremiah 36). At times people threaten his life if he doesn’t quit prophesying (Jeremiah 11:18-23); another time he is tossed into a pit and left to die, but a friend helps him escape (Jeremiah 38:1-13). And if Jeremiah’s life weren’t sad enough, his name comes up most often as the author of the book of Lamentations, a series of five laments detailing the fall of Jerusalem. Yet Jeremiah remains faithful and weathers the many storms of his long and dedicated life.

Ezekiel - Like Isaiah, Ezekiel has an amazing vision of God in His heaven and an unmistakable call to serve as a prophet (Ezekiel chapters 1 & 2). He is among the captives carried off to Babylon, and he ministers to his people there. One of the most remarkable of Ezekiel’s many visions is of a valley filled with dry bones. But when God’s breath enters the bones, they are once again covered with tendons, flesh, and skin. The vision is a promise that God will restore His people and return them to Israel – no matter how hopeless their situation looks at the time (Ezekiel 37:1-14).

Daniel - Daniel is also taken into captivity. He has a God given ability to interpret dreams, which keeps him in favor with a series of king: Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar of Babylon, and Darius the Mede (Dan. 2:24-29). Most people know about Daniel’s lions’ den incident (Daniels 6), which occurs late in his life. He also interprets Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of an enormous statue felled (destroyed by a “rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands (Daniels 2:45). A foretelling of the coming of Jesus (Daniels 7:13-14). He later interprets mysterious writings on the wall (Daniel 5). In Daniel’s book we also read the story of his friends Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and their ordeal in the fiery

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furnace (Daniels 3). And the last half of the book (Daniel chapters 7-12) contains prophecies that many people use to help interpret Revelations and explain the expected events of the end times.

The Minor Prophets - The Minor Prophets are Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. Of these chosen men, the best known is Jonah because of his fascinating story of surviving three days in the belly of a great fish (Jonah chapters 1-3). Hosea's life is also interesting because he marries an adulterous woman who later leaves him and has kids with other men (Hosea 1:4-9). Still, he takes her back to demonstrate God's persistent faithfulness to His people – Israel (Hosea chapter 3). Micah tells us where to look for the Messiah to be born (Micah 5:2). And the other Minor Prophets have valuable insights into both their own times and the times to come.

Their writings of the prophets are probably some of the least – read in the Bible. Yet their contribution to both their people and the totality of the Bible should never be underestimated. Though largely unknown to today's population, they all provide testimony to God's grace and mercy in the today's worst of times.

By the grace of God, next week's focus:

- **Back Home – The Return to Jerusalem**
- **Esther**
- **Ezra**
- **Nehemiah**

Note: Please continue to read from the above books in preparation of our Bible Study's discussion.

Your thoughts and feedback help to develop group understanding of the material covered. Please feel free to ask questions, send follow up emails, and text for further discussion.