

The Watford Word

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What's on

Sunday 30 July - 10:30AM. Stefan speaking.

Sunday 06 August - 10:30AM. Andy Ezeilo speaking.

Sunday 13 August - 10:30AM. Malcolm speaking.

Sunday 27 August - 10:30AM. Barry Lamb speaking.

Sunday 17 Sept - 10:30AM. Dr Andy Boakye

Sunday 17 December - 10:30AM. Carol service

Prayers

- For Tanya and family in Ukraine
- For students deciding about future study
- For our youth as they go to camps this summer

5-Star Cafe West!

Cafe West have maintained their spirit of excellence by once again being awarded the top rating for food hygiene. Congratulations to all the



cafe volunteers! If you would like to participate, please speak to any of the people in the photograph above.

thewatfordchurch@gmail.com

Cover to Cover: Unveiling the Bible's Rich Tapestry in a Year

The more I study the Bible in detail, the more I realise I need a better handle on the big picture.

Several things have come together recently to help me make a big decision. What is that decision? To read the entire Bible in 12 months.

Perhaps this decision does not seem such a big deal to you. Indeed, many years of my Christian life I have read the entire Old and New Testaments within 365 days. But I haven't done that for some time. Why? Partly because it got stale. Partly because I found myself needing to study Scripture in more detail. The amount of time involved focusing on a book of the Bible or a topic seemed to get in the way of more voluminous reading. Of course, detailed study and extensive reading or not necessarily mutually exclusive.

However, my perspective has changed. Why? For two primary reasons. The first is spending more time around my good friend, Douglas Jacoby. He has read through the entire Bible almost every year of his Christian life. He has championed this practice and was my first inspiration for doing so. Talking to Douglas about any biblical topic is like talking to a Bible concordance. It's not only that he has an excellent memory (which he does), but it has a lot to do with his familiarity with the whole of the Bible. It has seeped into him verse by verse, year by year.

The second cause is ironically a consequence of one of the reasons I stopped habitually reading the Bible in 12 months. Let me give you some context. As you know, here in Watford we have been studying 'Men and women: a divine

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harmony'. We are attempting to explore and discover God's intention for how men and women are meant to be a mutual blessing to one another, the church and the world. I have drilled down on this topic in my personal Bible study and lesson preparation. Passages such as 1 Timothy 2:11-15 and 1 Corinthians 14:34-35 have been extensively analysed. Gaining a biblical perspective on these teachings has required me to look at the rest of the Bible's teaching on authority, submission and men and women. We have found ourselves looking at Deborah and Barak, Huldah and Josiah, Adam and Eve, Lydia and Paul, Phoebe, Jesus and a number of women with whom he interacted, David and Abigail, Ruth and Boaz, Esther and Mordecai.... The list goes on.

Studying this topic has taken me all over the Bible -- often into nooks and crannies I have not visited for some time. It has dawned on me more and more that the issue cannot be understood from one or two passages. Not even a dozen. This topic requires a reasonably good understanding of the entirety of Scripture. Hence my decision to resume reading the Bible in 12 months.

Is this something you might consider? There are many different ways to do it. I have chosen this time round to use a devotional reading plan in my bible software Accordance (<https://www.accordancebible.com/>). Each day I am provided with a selection of Old Testament, New Testament, a Psalm and a Proverb or two. I read these first thing in the morning before going out for my prayer walk. I like using the Accordance bible software because if I hover my mouse over the text reference a drop-down box gives me the full text (see below). It also synchronises nicely with the mobile app. However, the point is not the app, nor the particular plan, but the motivation.

July 26: 2 Chronicles 17:1-18:34; Romans 9:25-10:12; Psalm 20:1-9; Proverbs 20:2-3
July 27: <small>(NIV11-GK; 2Ch 17:1-18:34) Jehoshaphat has son succeeded him as king and strengthened himself against Israel. He restored justice in Judah and in the towns of Ephraim that his father Asa had captured. The Lord was with Jehoshaphat because he followed the ways his commandments before him. He did not consult the Baals but sought the God of his father and followed the commandments that the prophets of Israel. The Lord established the kingdom under his control, and all Judah brought gifts to Jehoshaphat, so that he had great wealth and honor. His heart was directed to the ways of the Lord; furthermore, he removed the high places and the Asherah poles from Judah. In the third year of his reign he sent his officials Ben-Hai, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nehushai and Shemaiah to repair the houses of Judah. With them were certain Levites—Shemuel, Nehemiah, Zebadiah, Asahel, Obeniah, Jehoshaphat, Adonijah, Shigah and Elisha— and the priests Elhanan and Azariah. They taught throughout Judah, taking with</small>
Romans 10:13-11:12; Psalm 21:1-13; Proverbs 20:4-6
July 28: Romans 11:13-36; Psalm 22:1-18; Proverbs 20:7
July 29: Romans 12:1-21; Psalm 22:19-31; Proverbs 20:8-10

Conclusion

I hope you find these reflections helpful. Reading the Bible in 12 months is to some degree an artificial aim. However, I cherish the idea of becoming more familiar with *all* of Scripture. It's there for a reason, and interacting with it can only enrich my life.

Next week I will offer seven reasons for reading through the bible in a year.

God bless, Malcolm

Christians and Climate Change



'An evening encounter with our creator God on Climate Change'

Sunday 24th September, 5.30pm, St Mary's church, 1 Church Street, WD18 0EG

Guest speakers: Dr Martin and Rev Margot Hodson; Rachel Johnson

AIM UK&I

The next AIM module is Homiletics — the preparation and delivery of effective lessons. www.aimukandireland.com

Watford Media

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj9Qa8D9zumJZdoAtARDUww>

Podcast: <https://www.podbean.com/pu/pbblog-aiinq-raef9o>