December



THE 2026 BIBLE DISCOVERY GUIDE
2 TIMOTHY — REVELATION

BIBLE DISCOVERY

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DECEMBER 2026

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The End of Days

Some time ago, when I was teaching through the book of Revelation, someone commented, "I wish we never had to read Revelation, it's so confusing!" It is amazing that so many people feel that way about this ancient book. The beginning of Revelation 1 reads, "Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near" (REVELATION 1:3). There is a unique blessing for reading and heeding this book. Why? The answer is obvious: It is not a book about the end of time – although it is clearly marked as occurring near the end – ultimately, it is a book about Jesus Christ.

We don't read the Bible because we need comfort but because we need the truth. The truth is sometimes very hard for us to understand. We are a creation bound by sin. Many things we do in this world are bound by sin. However, when we come to Jesus Christ, He changes us and begins to sanctify us. This sanctification is the amazing change that our LORD makes in our hearts and minds as we read and listen to what He said.

This year we have read through the entire Bible. And, next year, we will do the same. In fact, this past year was the thirty-sixth year we have read through the Bible, since this program began in 1990. Truthfully, every time I go through God's Word, I learn so many things I have not seen or learned before. The Holy Spirit of God is so faithful to show us things that we need to hear and change in our lives.

I want to invite you to read every single word of the Bible again next year with us, as we explore what the Holy Spirit is saying to His people, right now! The earth is shifting and changing. God is speaking to us, are we listening? Let's listen and hear His voice together!



Rod Hembree, Th.D, DE.



CHARLES ROD HEMBREE is the founding pastor of *Good Friends Fellowship* in Ontario, Canada. He brings his extensive production background and Biblical training together to serve the Body of Christ as the Executive Director of Bible Discovery.

How to use this Bible in a Year Guide

Make the most of your devotional time with our Guide to the Bible in a year. Each Guide provides valuable context and theological insight to help strengthen your faith and dig deeper into the richness of God's Word every day.

The following three tips will help you make the most of your daily Bible reading and Guide:



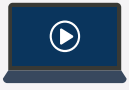
SPOTLIGHT ON...

In every Guide, you'll find a section with specific highlights from the perspectives of history, apologetics, theology, and more. These viewpoints provide a holistic context from which to view the month's Bible reading, giving us a greater understanding of the Word, and equipping us to grasp the impact of the Bible in these important fields.



DAILY READING

The readings are in traditional order, with a date corresponding to the Hebrew calendar. Each reading consists of a daily insight and a focus on three major takeaways from the day's Bible passage. Challenge yourself to meditate on the *Discovering The Truth* and *Today's Prayer* sections as you go about your day.



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by Ryan Hembree

Ezekiel & The Gospel

What is the book of Ezekiel really all about?



Of the sixty-six books of the Bible, one of the more challenging to read is Ezekiel. As Bible scholar Charles Dyer admits, **"For the average reader of the Bible the Book of Ezekiel is mostly a perplexing maze of incoherent visions—a kaleidoscope of whirling wheels and dry bones that defy interpretation. This impression often causes readers to shy away from studying the book and to miss one of the great literary and spiritual portions of the Old Testament."**

I think it's safe to assume that if you're reading this, then you're like me and don't want a few mysterious passages to come between you and Ezekiel! So let's see if we can break this down and come to an understanding of what the Holy Spirit is trying to teach us. Actually, you might be surprised to learn that in some ways Ezekiel can be easier to understand than some of the other prophetic books especially in regard to its arrangement, structure, and overall message. For example, more than any other major prophet Ezekiel arranges his prophecies with extreme chronological precision which makes the timeline easier to follow. Even when we include the minor prophets, only Haggai and Zechariah's prophecies are arranged like Ezekiel's. In addition to the chronological order scholars have also identified a structural order to Ezekiel. In fact, it is organized into three distinct sections. In the first part **(CH. 1–24)** Ezekiel focuses on God's judgment of Judah for her sin. Then in the second section **(CH. 25–32)** the focus shifts to God's judgment of other nations for their iniquity. And the third part **(CH. 33–48)** is all about restoration.

Interestingly, once we recognize this structural order of Ezekiel the overall message of the book also comes into focus. Pay attention to the pattern: 1) God judges the Jews for their sin, 2) God judges the Gentiles for their rebellion, both are called to repent. 3) If they respond to God's call and humble themselves before Him then He will forgive their iniquities and bring restoration and new life. Does that sound familiar? It's the Gospel message, and it's written all over the pages of Ezekiel! Seemingly a prophecy regarding the restoration of Israel, it's bigger than that because it ultimately points to Jesus Christ who brings those who are dead in their sin to life again. Notice that even the man prophesying over the dead bones, Ezekiel, seems to be a type of Christ.

Three well-known titles of Jesus are: the prophet like Moses **(ACTS 3:22; 7:37)**, Son of Man **(MATT. 8:20; 9:6; MK. 8:31; 9:12; LK. 11:30; JN. 1:51; 3:13, ETC.)**, and the Last Adam **(1 COR. 15:45)**. Interestingly, Ezekiel is also connected to these titles. For instance, Ezekiel could rightly be referred to as a prophet like Moses since he fulfilled "a role similar to Moses, renewing the covenant at a time of breakdown of the relationship." In fact, "In the biblical narrative, Ezekiel is the only person other than Moses to communicate divine laws to Israel **(CHS. 43-48)**." As for the title son of man (which is a well-known messianic title) God refers to Ezekiel this way numerous times in his book **(EZ. 2:1,3,6,8; 3:1,3,4; ETC.)**. On top of that, son of man can also be translated son of Adam. So Ezekiel could be seen as a second Adam just as Christ is the last Adam. As Bible scholar Thomas Renz concludes, "As a second Adam and Moses, the prophet is a type of Christ, who is the ultimate second Adam and Moses, the beginning of a new creation."

Thus, Jesus and His Gospel is what the book of Ezekiel is ultimately all about! ■

FOOTNOTES ON PAGE 6

by Corie Bobechko

Emperor Nero



The Roman Ruler Who Persecuted Christians

Sixteen year old Nero became Emperor of Rome in AD 54 (AD 54-68) thanks to his mother Agrippina, (the sister of Caligula). Agrippina had married her uncle and Emperor of Rome, Claudius, who adopted Nero, her son from a previous marriage, and named him heir over his own son Britannicus.

IN CHRISTIAN HISTORY NERO IS REMEMBERED FOR BEING THE EXECUTIONER OF PETER AND HIS WIFE, AND PAUL.

Agrippina then poisoned Claudius so that Nero could take power, but her expectations may have been disappointed. In a sweeping move Emperor Nero married Claudius' daughter Octavia, poisoned her brother Britannicus, and then had his mother banished from the palace, eventually ordering her assassination (AD 59).

With his power established, and apparently feeling more safe, Nero began to rule peacefully, and diplomatically for around 5 years, theories for why often revolve around his famous tutor Seneca. The idea being that while Nero was young Seneca had more influence.

This brief period however was followed by new lows for the office of Emperor. Murders, carousing, indulgence and neglect of an Empire pushed Romans to gossip about the mad king.

Nero denied himself nothing, he is said to have murdered his wife Octavia, presenting her head on a platter to the new object of his affection, Poppea, his friend's wife. He ordered their divorce and married Poppea only to personally kill her later in a fit of rage, while she was pregnant.

In Christian history Nero is remembered for being the executioner of Peter and his wife, and Paul. These martyrdoms coincide with the bloody aftermath of a fire that swept through Rome in AD 64.

Nero was out of town when the fire happened but when he saw the devastation he performed a song from a play on a rooftop causing rumours that he himself ordering the fire for show.

Nero then began a mass persecution of Roman Christians, blaming them for the fire and torturing them brutally and publicly.

When Nero unveiled an assassination plot against him by some senators he began executing liberally. Eventually the military and Praetorian Guard rebelled against him, and one of his aides in AD 68 helped along his so called honourable suicide. ■

SPOTLIGHT FOOTNOTES FROM PAGE 5

1 Charles H. Dyer, The Bible Knowledge Commentary: Old Testament, Ezekiel, Introduction, P.1226, General Editors John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck.. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck.

2 The major prophets include Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel.

3 All except for two prophecies in 29:1 and 29:17 which seem to be "grouped topically as part of the prophecies against Egypt in chapters 29-32." – Charles H. Dyer, The Bible Knowledge Commentary: Old Testament, Ezekiel, Introduction, P.1225, General Editors John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck.

4 The minor prophets include Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

5 Charles H. Dyer, The Bible Knowledge Commentary: Old Testament, Ezekiel, Introduction, P.1226, General Editors John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck.. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck.

6 Thomas Renz, Theological Interpretation of the Old Testament, Ezekiel, P.233, General Editor Kevin J. Vanhoozer.

7 Ibid., P.229.

8 Ibid., P.229.

9 The phrase "son of man" is used more times in Ezekiel than any other book of the Bible (over 90 times). Significantly, outside of Ezekiel it is used most frequently in the New Testament Gospels (especially Matthew and Luke)

10 Thomas Renz, Theological Interpretation of the Old Testament, Ezekiel, P.233, General Editor Kevin J. Vanhoozer.

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Ultimate Truth

DISCOVERING THE WORD

It is believed that the Apostle Paul wrote 2 Timothy from prison in Rome. This may be one of the last books of the New Testament to be written, around AD 66-67. It was originally a letter to Timothy, and in it Paul speaks about the hard truths of suffering for Jesus Christ. He conveys four things: (1) He was thankful to the Lord for being faithful to him through the years, (2) Paul wants Timothy to remain faithful to God, (3) The authority of God's Word is supreme and, (4) He encourages leading a godly life. In chapter 3, Paul moves on to the topic of the last days. He writes of a very negative change, how men will abandon good and live selfish, ungodly lives. Paul instructs Timothy to turn away from such people because they will have a horrible end. Instead, Paul encourages Timothy to remain faithful to God and His Word. In our times today, we can see how culture has continued to turn away from what is good and lean into human selfishness. God's Word is always right. If we commit to following God and heeding His Word, we will always be ready for His return.

DISCOVERING GOD — 2 TIMOTHY 3:1–9

People will wander into their own selfishness and passions near the end of time. Let's remember that we are to serve Jesus Christ, not ourselves.
(v. 1–5)

There are those who seem to be wise but know nothing. Media platforms have made masters of those who talk a lot.
(v. 6–7)

There are those who resist the truth. There is an ultimate truth: Jesus Christ.
(v. 8–9)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Truth is not defined by governments, churches or denominations; it is defined by God. We must know the Bible, and learn the truth, being careful about how we think and why.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, HELP ME TO KNOW AND LOVE YOUR TRUTH.

Titus

DISCOVERING THE WORD

The book of Titus was written just before Timothy. Titus was also Paul's disciple, whom we can see Paul speak to directly and seriously. Both Timothy and Titus were pastoring congregations as the church was beginning to grow. It is likely that Paul also wrote Titus from the city of Rome, and he sent it to Crete where Titus was pastoring the new converts. Paul writes three things to Titus: (1) Instructions about governing the direction of the church, (2) Encouraging Titus to live in the faith of Jesus Christ, and (3) Paul gives his final instructions to the young disciple to succeed in pastoring for Jesus Christ. Paul reinforces that we have been justified through faith in Jesus Christ and are now heirs of hope and eternal life. What an amazing thing to remember today! As we read Paul's letter to Titus, let's understand that it has been preserved for all of us. God is amazing; In His mercy and care He has preserved His Word for all of us, for those in the early church and for us today. We need to take His Words into our hearts and remind ourselves of them day by day.

DISCOVERING GOD — TITUS 3:1–8

Christians are called to be gentle and willing to do good to all. We need to remember this as we enter times of protest and rebellion.
(v. 1–2)

The Holy Spirit is real and good; we must follow Him, as He leads us. We were once misled, but followers of Christ know it is the Holy Spirit who leads us.
(v. 3–7)

It is only because of God's mercy and grace that we are right and good in His sight. Those who trust in God and follow His Holy Spirit will devote themselves to doing good.
(v. 8)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God commands that all His churches worldwide live and represent His character. This is a hard challenge. Yet when we allow the Holy Spirit to lead us and we truly follow, it is more than possible to live for Christ.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME GO DEEPER WITH THROUGH YOUR HOLY SPIRIT. HELP MY LIFE REFLECT THAT.

Transformed by Christ

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Jesus Christ has done so much for us! When we repent of our sins and take on Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, there is a deep healing that occurs. Even still, every honest believer knows that it is impossible for us to change our character and follow Jesus on our own. We need the power of God; we need His Holy Spirit. With our own power, living a life pleasing to God is impossible, but with God, all things are possible (MATTHEW 19:26)! The Holy Spirit does changing work in our lives, we call this work sanctification, and it means that God is making us holy, He is changing our bad habits into godly ones. As we read through the book of Philemon, we will see that this was a letter written by the Apostle Paul to a man who was a believer. As was the custom in ancient Rome, Philemon had slaves, and one of them had run away and met Paul. Paul led the runaway slave, Onesimus, to the Lord. Now Paul was advocating for a reconciliation between these two men but on different terms. No longer master and slave, Philemon and Onesimus were now brothers in the Lord.

DISCOVERING GOD — PHILEMON 1:1–22

Christians have experienced God's forgiveness and grace. What we have received from Christ, we must also live out to one another.
(v. 1–7)

Paul confronts Philemon about Onesimus, a runaway slave. We are often confronted with God's truth in our reality. How will we respond?
(v. 8–16)

Paul forced a confrontation between Philemon and Onesimus. Let's be ready to respond well when God calls us to be a part of someone's healing.
(v. 17–22)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God is aware of everything we think and do in our lives, and He knows how to confront us with our sins from the past. God is the perfect Judge and Redeemer. Go to Him and be transformed by the love of Christ, today.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, HELP ME BE SENSITIVE TO THE LEADING OF YOUR HOLY SPIRIT IN ALL MY CIRCUMSTANCES.

The New Covenant

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Written to the Hebrew followers of Jesus Christ, the book of Hebrews was the last book accepted into the New Testament, and there is no author named in the text. Many of today's scholars believe this may be because it was originally written as a sermon. In the early church, Hebrews was circulated with Paul's other New Testament letters and so some church fathers believed that Paul was the author, while others, especially around Rome, disagreed. While there is not a lot of evidence for who the author may be, its date is normally estimated to be around AD 60-69, before the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple in AD 70. This book has three themes: (1) The supremacy of Jesus Christ—key for Jewish believers, (2) The details of the new covenant which Christ initiated, and (3) The life lived through faith in Jesus Christ. The book of Hebrews tells us in no uncertain terms that Jesus Christ is the author and finisher of our faith. As we read, it is clear that this book was written for people who knew the Old Testament histories well; they were Hebrews rescued by their long-awaited Messiah.

DISCOVERING GOD — HEBREWS 6:1–12

As mature Christians, we are ready to hear God's complete plan. We are saved through Christ Jesus, and we must mature not only in our understanding but in everything.
(v. 1–6)

Whatever grows in our hearts and minds is revealed by God. Too often, we ignore our need to know and live for God.
(v. 7–8)

We are living now to prepare ourselves for our eternal purpose. Christians are people not simply for this life, but for life everlasting.
(v. 9–12)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God began His eternal work in our lives when we were born again. Our spirit is revived, and the Holy Spirit renews us. Let's always remember we are eternal creatures not bound by earthly life.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I DESIRE YOUR ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE; TO STAY FOCUSED LISTENING TO YOUR WORD AND LIVING IT OUT IN MY LIFE.

The Old Covenant

DISCOVERING THE WORD

The book of Hebrews continues to encourage Jewish believers in Christ to deepen their understanding and relationship with God through the new covenant, forged by God through the work of Jesus Christ and prophesied by Jewish prophets who lived long before Jesus. Hebrews 8:8 quotes from Jeremiah 31:31-32, when it says, "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt;". The old covenant was beautiful in that it established a relationship between Israel (the nation) and God. It pointed out sin and established a pattern that was fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Now that the long-awaited new covenant has come, everyone, both Jew and Gentile, must go through this new covenant: Jesus Christ. The writer of Hebrews beautifully explains the patterns of growth visible through the Scriptures that all pointed toward Christ's life and work.

DISCOVERING GOD — HEBREWS 8:1–13

God shows Himself as the Creator of the new covenant. Jesus Christ is the essence of the new covenant.
(v. 1–6)

God has made the new covenant personal. The LORD is unavoidable.
(v. 7–10)

The blood of Christ cleanses His people completely from sin. True Christians know that Jesus Christ is the everlasting LORD.
(v. 11–13)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The LORD God has made His new covenant simple so that we can begin our new life in eternity. It has profound meaning for us in the here and now. How we live our lives matters as we follow the Lord Jesus, because we must begin to avoid sin.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I NEED TO TAKE YOUR MERCY AND GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE SERIOUSLY.

Trust

DISCOVERING THE WORD

What and who do you trust? Where are you placing your hope for provision, stability, and a good future? Some of us trust our own capability to work and navigate the world, some of us trust our spouse and their capabilities. Others of us have learned to trust in the businesses we have grown or joined on to. Still others trust in government programs to catch us when, or if, we fall. These things seem secure and stable; they bring us comfort when we feel unsure, but are they trustworthy? We know that this world is imperfect, people are imperfect, and sin and evil and the unexpected do happen. The Bible tells us that the only truly trustworthy person is God. He never changes, and He is good!

We can see this demonstrated so perfectly in Jesus Christ. We are naturally bound to sin, obsessed with it, trapped by it. Jesus Christ rescues us. His sacrifice pays what we owe and repairs our relationship with God. He gives us the Holy Spirit and the promise and hope of eternal life. The decision to follow Him is the ultimate commitment to trust Him. Each day we must make decisions to trust Him. As we arrange our life to follow His ways, we are displaying that trust. These are real decisions that we should not ignore or take lightly. Psalm 146 explores the blessings for all who place their hope in the LORD. It begins by telling us who not to trust.

DISCOVER: PSALM 146:1–10

Do not put your trust in princes,
nor in a son of man,
in whom there is no help.
His spirit departs, he returns to his earth;
In that very day his plans perish.

GUIDED PRAYER

LORD, help me to deepen my trust in You and Your name. This is not something that is easy for me, but I know it is necessary.

Practical Points

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Three key points as you read Hebrews 13: (1) Focus on brotherly love between Christians, (2) Marriage should be the only place where you satisfy your sexual desires, and (3) Do not covet. These three points are what the writer of Hebrews gives as practical instructions. The closing points of the book of Hebrews then address strong tendencies in our human nature. We must understand that sin is real and deliverance from sin is real. How we think and how we handle our emotions will help us live up to the Christian call. The book of Hebrews stands out for many reasons, but its call to stay under the power of the Holy Spirit is critical. We are not to live as we want, but as Jesus Christ has called us to. There are reasons that each of us drift away from following our Lord and Saviour, and we do well when we pay attention to the sinful patterns in our lives so that we can break them. We have a calling from God to live like Christ; it is good for us and good for the world. We need to stay focused on what the Scriptures and the Spirit of God tell us and not be distracted and rerouted by our feelings.

DISCOVERING GOD — HEBREWS 13:1–6

Christians are one body in Christ, around the world. The persecuted Church is our Church; we are not separated. (v. 1–3)

We must give honour and remain dedicated to our marriage. The LORD will judge those who are not. (v. 4)

We must learn to be content with the things we have and not covet. Christians know and understand that Jesus Christ is their Lord and helper. (v. 5–6)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God has called each of us to live for Him, now. That means we are obligated to change our lifestyle to follow what Jesus Christ taught and not what our desires tell us to do. We can only accomplish this through the help of His Holy Spirit.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, RENEW MY MIND IN CHRIST JESUS. I LONG TO LIVE TO BRING GLORY TO YOUR NAME, IN ALL THINGS.

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BIBLE DISCOVERY

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