

The Story Devotional Plan 2023

Chapter 7: Prophets



Welcome to Chapter 7b of "The Story", our exciting journey through the Bible in 2023.

Below you will see 28 days of Scripture to use in your [time alone with God](#) AND to [prep for the upcoming Sunday](#).

Here are some tips to get you started:

- For all of these passages, we encourage you to [SOAP](#) the text.
- For each day, we provide a statement or question to help you observe the text in order to apply it to your life.
- For an overview video of each one of the books, click the appropriate [title](#) below.

Let's begin!

DANIEL

READ

08/07: [Daniel 1](#)

Name at least 3 places where you see God at work in [ch1](#).
What is the common thread in each of these situations?

08/08: [Daniel 2](#)

Notice what Daniel does before he gets the interpretation. ([vv17-18](#))
Notice what he does after he receives the interpretation. ([vv19-23](#))
Notice what he tells the king before he tells him the interpretation. ([vv27-28](#))
Notice what the king says after he hears the interpretation. ([v47](#))
Now how does all this apply to your life?

08/09: [Daniel 3](#)

Focus on [vv16-18](#). How can you emulate their confidence ([v16](#)), faith ([v17](#)), and allegiance ([v18](#)) today?

08/10: [Daniel 4](#)

[Ch4](#) ends with: "those who walk in pride he is able to humble". Read [James 4:6](#) and [1 Peter 5:5](#).
Why was it important that King Nebuchadnezzar be humbled?
How can humbling situations be good news for you?

08/11: [Daniel 5](#)

Notice [vv16-17](#). Daniel could have agreed to accept the gifts. And he was awarded them in [v29](#).
Why do you think Daniel initially turned them down? Is there a principle to apply to your life today?

08/12: [Daniel 6](#)

Daniel was known as a man who served God continually. ([v20](#))
Notice in [v10](#) what Daniel did when he realized he could die if he kept praying to God.
Would you have had that same response? Why or why not?

08/13: [Daniel 9](#)

Daniel's prayer in [vv3-19](#) can be used as a model in your personal time with God.
Personalize the text and use this prayer today as you meet with God.
Also notice God's response to Daniel in [vv20-23](#) and how God may be working as you pray today.

HOSEA

READ

08/14: [Hosea 1-2](#)

In [2:8](#) we see that Israel used God's gifts to worship a false god. Where have you done this?
Where do you see God's discipline and love in [ch2](#) and where have you seen it in your life?

08/15: [Hosea 3-4](#)

In [3:1-3](#), God tells Hosea to redeem his adulteress wife. Where do you see aspects of the gospel?
Consider how difficult this was for Hosea and how this reveals God's love for us?

08/16: [Hosea 5-7](#)

Notice in [5:13/7:11](#) (and in [8:9/12:1](#)) that Ephraim (a.k.a. Israel) looked elsewhere for help.
What people, places, or possessions do you lean on rather than God?
According to [6:1-6](#), what does God expect in your relationship with Him?

08/17: [Hosea 8-10](#)

Notice in [8:4](#), that Israel made decisions without God's input. How often do you do that?
Consider yesterday. How often did you make decisions without inquiring of or even considering God?
As you contemplate what is before you today, stop and ask God for His wisdom and direction.

08/18: [Hosea 11:1-12:1](#)

Reflect on [11:3-4](#).
How often are you taught, carried, healed, led, comforted, and fed and not recognize it was from God?
Why is it important to be aware that it is God who is guiding, empowering, and keeping you alive?

08/19: [Hosea 12:2-13:16](#)

[Hosea 13:4](#) points us back to Israel's exodus from Egypt, saying "there is no savior" other than God.
How would your day have been different yesterday if that phrase was continually on your mind?
Ask God to help you meditate on this truth throughout the day today.

08/20: [Hosea 14](#)

Every time you stumble, the right response every single time is to return to the LORD. ([v1](#))
What did that look like in [ch14](#)? What should that look like in your life on a daily basis?

ZEPHANIAH

READ

08/21: [Zephaniah 1:1-6](#)

One day God "will utterly sweep away everything from the face of the earth". ([v2](#))
And He will judge those who do not follow, seek, or inquire of Him. ([v6](#))
How should this impact how you think about, pray for, and interact with others today?

08/22: [Zephaniah 1:7-18](#)

Have you considered that God is a jealous God? ([v18](#))
Why is it proper that God is jealous and that His punishment is always just?

08/23: [Zephaniah 2:1-7](#)

Reflect on [Zephaniah 2:3](#) and then read [Colossians 3:3-4](#).
Where in [Zephaniah 2:3](#) do you see indications and implications of faith in Christ?

08/24: [Zephaniah 2:8-15](#)

[James 4:6](#) and [1 Peter 5:5](#) say: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."
Where do you see references to pride in [Zephaniah 2:8-15](#)? Where do you see pride in your life?
How can you become more humble in the areas you have identified?

08/25: [Zephaniah 3:1-8](#)

You are most safe when you "draw near" to the One who could otherwise destroy you. ([v2](#))
To avoid destruction, you must first *draw near* to God through Christ. ([John 6:44](#))
Read [James 4:8](#). What are practical ways in which you can "draw near" to God today?

08/26: [Zephaniah 3:9-13](#)

In what ways might these verses be describing the coming Kingdom of Heaven?
What aspects of Heaven described in these verses are you mostly looking forward to?

08/27: [Zephaniah 3:14-20](#)

Wow! This book ends quite differently than it began.
It started out with a command to be "silent" ([1:7](#)) and ends with a command to "sing aloud". ([3:14](#))
Notice that God Himself is rejoicing over His people with "loud singing". ([3:17](#))
Throughout the day today, reflect on how much God delights in His children.

MICAH & MALACHI

READ

08/28: [Micah 1-2](#)

Reflect on [1:3-4](#) and consider the awesome power of God.
Why is it important to daily remember how magnificent and mighty God is?

08/29: [Micah 3-4](#)

God is serious about spiritual leadership ([ch3](#)).
What responsibilities do you have in making sure that you being led well and leading others well?

08/30: [Micah 5](#)

A perfect ruler and shepherd is coming! From [vv2-5](#), how can we tell that this is no ordinary person?
What are 3 blessings that Jesus would bring that the other rulers and prophets could not?

08/31: [Micah 6](#)

[Verse 7](#) is not required because God has given His Son for our transgressions.
Receiving Christ as Savior and Lord begins a walk with God where [v8](#) comes into play.
Consider [v8](#) and the ways you have been / should be living out justice, kindness, and humility.

09/01: [Micah 7](#)

Are there certain sins of which you wonder if God has fully forgiven you?
If so, how can [vv18-19](#) give you comfort and assurance today?

09/02: [Malachi 1-2](#)

Reflect on [2:17](#). Israel had wearied God with their words of inaccuracy and complaint.
When speaking, do you consider that your words can bring delight or sadness to God?
Pray that God will help you speak to others and Him today in a way that pleases Him.

09/03: [Malachi 3-4](#)

See [3:6](#). What is it about God's immutability that means His children are not consumed?
See [3:8-10](#). Name multiple reasons to give to God's storehouse.
How can tithing be important in a person's relationship with God (as [3:7](#) indicated in their situation)?
Where in [chs3-4](#) do you see the perfect setup for the New Testament?