

ST MATTHEW IN THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT – QUARTER 4

If using “The Story Bible” with kids as you read, the weekly headings match the chapter titles.

Find resources for each week at StMatthewGR.com:
devotions, activities, videos, and more!

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|--------------------------|----------|---|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | April 25 | Jonah | Jonah 1-4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | May 2 | Isaiah Sees the Lord | Isaiah 6, 52-53 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | May 9 | King Josiah’s New Book | 2 Kings 22 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | May 16 | Elijah and the Prophets of Baal & Elijah is Taken to Heaven | 1 Kings 18,
2 Kings 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | May 23 | Naaman and Elisha | 2 Kings 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | May 30 | The Three Men in the Fiery Furnace | Daniel 3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | June 6 | Daniel in the Lion’s Den & Daniel Sees Heaven | Daniel 6-7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | June 13 | A New Wall | Nehemiah 1-2, 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | June 20 | Esther and the King & The Lord Saves Esther | Esther 2-9 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | June 27 | Waiting for God’s Messenger | Malachi 2-4 |

HOPE LIVES ON

In this final quarter of St Matthew in the Word, we wrap up the Old Testament. Last quarter ended with the wise King Solomon, but things would fall apart quickly for Israel. Toward the end of his life, Solomon would fall victim to sin and worshiping other gods and the nation would split after his reign. In the stories that follow, we turn to the prophets: men who God used to call His people back to repentance and faith.

The prophets are an assortment of characters - some upright and faithful, others more reluctant. Sometimes we see ourselves in the prophets, like Jonah, as we recognize our own reluctance at times to follow God's will or to love our enemies. Other times, we see ourselves in the people who initially received their messages - people who had, in one way or another, turned their backs on God or let themselves wander away after other gods. Their stories remind us of God's call to us to daily repent and turn to God in faith, trusting in His promises and His goodness for us.

Israel would end up being carried off into exile under foreign rule, but God was still with them. His promises to them, stretching all the way through His Word back to Genesis 3, remained. Even though they had turned from Him, He remained faithful to His promises for them and His plan for salvation never wavered.

The Old Testament ends much as it began: with the hope of a coming Savior. Genesis 3 introduced the promise that God would send the seed of a woman to crush the serpent's head. Malachi 4 ends the Old Testament anticipating the Day of the Lord, when the "sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings." (Malachi 4:2) Jesus, the Promised Savior and Messiah is that Sun of Righteousness and He alone brings the healing that creation has been longing for! God will renew Israel and then draw all nations to Himself as He promised Abraham. In that process, the whole of creation will be renewed. God's kingdom will be established over the whole earth.

With this hope the Old Testament ends.