

# Through The Bible In One Year

## The Adventure of Many Lifetimes

Unpublished Work, December 2005, David W. Shockey.

### Daily Scripture Selection

#### Week 36

**Day 246.** Ecclesiastes 4.1-6.12; 2 Corinthians 6.14-7.7; Psalm 47.1-9; and Proverbs 22.16.

**Day 247.** Ecclesiastes 7.1-9.18; 2 Corinthians 7.8-16; Psalm 48.1-14; and Proverbs 22.17-19.

**Day 248.** Ecclesiastes 10.1-12.14; 2 Corinthians 8.1-15; Psalm 49.1-20; and Proverbs 22.20-21.

**Day 249.** Song of Songs 1.1-4.16; 2 Corinthians 8.16-24; Psalm 50.1-23; and Proverbs 22.22-23.

**Day 250.** Song of Songs 5.1-8.14; 2 Corinthians 9.1-15; Psalm 51.1-19; and Proverbs 22.24-25.

**Day 251.** Isaiah 1.1-2.22; 2 Corinthians 10.1-18; Psalm 52.1-9; and Proverbs 22.26-27.

**Day 252.** Isaiah 3.1-5.30; 2 Corinthians 11.1-15; Psalm 53.1-6; and Proverbs 22.28-29.

## Through The Bible In One Year: Week 36 Sunday Worship Lessons

First Lesson (Old Testament): Ecclesiastes 4.8-12  
Psalm: 53.1-6

Second (New Testament) Lesson: 2 Corinthians 6.14-7.1

Theme: The Yoke Is On You! (But Which One?)

### **Sunday Scripture Selection and Theme Explanation, Week 36:**

Loneliness is epidemic in the world. Like some dread disease, the fear and desperation it creates wreaks havoc among people, destroying individuals, marriages, families, and whole communities. We are created intentionally by God in his image and likeness as relational beings who can only experience the fullness of life through love. The writer of Ecclesiastes shows the case of a man who toils and labors without any significant relationship, wondering ‘what is the point?’ Two are better than one, the author concludes, and enumerates the reasons: they produce more, they withstand threats better, their physical and emotional needs are supplied better, and they bear up under the pressures of life, better than does a person alone. Is it any wonder that people seek relationships? But sadly, not all relationships are healthy and wholesome for us. Paul, writing to the Corinthians, urges them not to be ‘yoked together with unbelievers.’ Speaking primarily to the most intimate and far reaching of human relationships, the marriage between a man and a woman, he urges Christians to seek life partners who share the same spiritual walk with Christ. Christ-followers need to be very careful to distinguish that while Paul urges followers of Jesus not to be ‘yoked’ with unbelievers, he is not telling believers to have no relationships with unbelievers. Elsewhere he writes we are to be ‘in but not of’ the world. As Jesus said, his followers are to be like salt or yeast in their relationships—influencing others through their loving, Christ-like words and servant deeds to follow Jesus, not to isolate themselves or have nothing to do with them. Jesus himself was known as ‘the friend of sinners,’ a negative label hung on him by his opponents, but one which he accepted joyfully. The crucial distinction is not to be ‘yoked’ to them, which means not to be consenting and following their path, but lovingly influencing them toward and for Jesus Christ. This is done by coming alongside them in their lives, particularly in the challenges they face.