

Through The Bible In One Year

The Adventure of Many Lifetimes

Unpublished Work, December 2005, David W. Shockey.

Daily Scripture Selection

Week 49

Day 337. Daniel 11.2-35; 1 John 3.7-24;
Psalm 122.1-9; and Proverbs 29.1.

Day 338. Daniel 11.36-12.13; 1 John 4.1-21;
Psalm 123.1-4; and Proverbs 29.2-4.

Day 339. Hosea 1.1-3.5; 1 John 5.1-21;
Psalm 124.1-8; and Proverbs 29.5-8.

Day 340. Hosea 4.1-5.15; 2 John 1.1-13;
Psalm 125.1-5; and Proverbs 29.9-11.

Day 341. Hosea 6.1-9.17; 3 John 1.1-14;
Psalm 126.1-6; and Proverbs 29.12-14.

Day 342. Hosea 10.1-14.9; Jude 1.1-25;
Psalm 127.1-5; and Proverbs 29.15-17.

Day 343. Joel 1.1-3.21; Revelation 1.1-20;
Psalm 128.1-6; and Proverbs 29.18.

Through The Bible In One Year: Week 49 Sunday Worship Lessons

First Lesson (Old Testament): Hosea 2.5-9, 14-20

Psalm: 126.1-6

Second (New Testament) Lesson: 1 John 4.7-12

Theme: This Is Love

Sunday Scripture Selection and Theme Explanation, Week 49:

What is real love? We use the word so easily and loosely that it is almost meaningless. We can say ‘I love this ice cream’ or ‘I love the way that looks on you’ of a haircut or a coat. We can also say ‘I love you’ to a person lightly, meaning I have a warm feeling towards you, without meaning I am committed to you no matter what. In the prophet Hosea, God shows real love toward his people—both an intimate passionate love of a bridegroom for his bride and a tough love that seeks to win back his estranged people by forcing them to face the consequences of their actions. In the New Testament reading John describes what real love is: the self-surrendering, seeking love of God that paid the price of our unfaithfulness to win back his people. ‘God is love’ John declares, but he means not a warm feeling but an unstoppable force for reconciling with wayward people. Love is epitomized in the cross of Christ. Because God loves us so, we know what love is, and we are made capable of such divine love. If we love one another—that is, if we love (in action and not just sentiment) the real people around us, despite all their faults and failing, God lives in us and his love is perfected in us (that is, carried through to completion).

Alternate Readings & Themes:

1. **“How The World Will End: In Tribulation and Resurrection”;** Does the world endure forever, or will there come an end? What happens to people after they die? Some world religions claim that time is cyclical, going through endless cycles of birth and rebirth. The Bible claims otherwise. The world has a beginning and is moving to a conclusion. At the end of time will be the beginning of an endless time we call eternity. All people will be resurrected to live eternally, either to everlasting life with God or everlasting death. The Bible talks about a terrible time of tribulation coming before the end. In the Old Testament, the prophet Daniel was given a vision of the end times that included the tribulation and the resurrection. John, in the New Testament, writes about the troubles believers will have because they follow Jesus Christ. The world will hate—and persecute~ the followers of Jesus because they do not share the world’s values and ways. But those who know Jesus will endure...and prevail. **Daniel 12.1-4; Psalm 125.1-5; 1 John 3.11-18.**
2. **“Faithful God, Unfaithful People”;** Though his people be unfaithful, God is—and ever will be—faithful. In the Old Testament, God likens his people to a wife who was unfaithful to her husband. But rather than rejecting her, God seeks to win her back. He promises he will woo her and renew their love. In the New Testament, John writes to give believers confidence for life now in God. God is both powerful and faithful to protect his people from sin, the evil one and the world which

is under the evil one's power. We have confidence because of God's faithfulness to approach him and ask him for anything according to his will. Because God is faithful, he will hear us. **Hosea 2.5-9, 14-20; Psalm 124.1-8; 1 John 5.13-21.**