



JULY 2026 | DAY 12

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

With Fellowship of the Rockies

SCRIPTURE

Obadiah 1
Psalms 7

Sibling rivalries run like fault lines through the biblical story. Cain resents and murders his brother Abel. Isaac's birth leads to his half-brother Ishmael's exile from the family. Rachel and Leah abuse their slaves in a brutal competition for children. Perhaps most famously, twin brothers Jacob and Esau start fighting while they're still in the womb and stay at each other's throats for most of their lives.

Jacob and Esau become the ancestors of the nations Israel and Edom, who carry forward their fathers' rocky relationship. When the Israelites trek toward the promised land, the Edomites refuse to let their homeless and vulnerable brothers pass through their territory (Num. 20:14-21). Kings Saul, David, and Solomon all fight against the Edomites (1 Sam. 14:47; 2 Sam. 8:11-14; 2 Kgs. 8:20). When the Babylonians invade Jerusalem, Edom cheers on and even participates in Babylon's violent rampage.

This ancient rivalry provides the backstory to the short but powerful book of Obadiah. Edom may be celebrating Israel's downfall now, but Yahweh promises the Edomites' cocky cruelty will one day come back on their own heads. And it's not just Edom: Every proud and rebellious nation will face Yahweh's judgment on the Day of the Lord.

Watch the video to learn more about the complexity of God's justice and the nature of God's faithfulness, as described in the book of Obadiah.



JULY 2026 | DAY 13

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

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SCRIPTURE

Jonah 1
Jonah 2
Jonah 3
Jonah 4
Psalms 8

So far in the Book of the Twelve, Yahweh has delighted in showing mercy, even to people who make themselves his enemies. When Israel abandoned their covenant relationship with Yahweh for adulterous affairs with idols, Yahweh promised through Hosea to chase them down and love them back to life.

When Israel's sin brought judgment as devastating as a locust swarm, Yahweh promised through Joel to transform their ravaged wilderness into a rich garden. When Israel smothered their own poor with injustice and exploitation, Yahweh promised through Amos to send them a righteous king. When Israel experienced exile because of their relentless rebellion, getting thrashed by their brother Edom along the way, Yahweh promised through Obadiah to bring them home.

But what happens when Yahweh extends this extravagant mercy to Israel's enemy?

Today's reading confronts us with that very question through the story of an Israelite prophet named Jonah. In the video, you'll learn about Jonah's mission to Nineveh. How will he respond when Yahweh shows mercy to his enemies? Which raises another, more important question: How will you respond when God shows mercy to your enemies?



JULY 2026 | DAY 14

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

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SCRIPTURE

Micah 1

Micah 2

Micah 3

Micah 4

Psalms 9

The sheep of Israel have strayed off, roaming after idolatry and injustice instead of trusting Yahweh's word. According to the prophet Micah, the religious leaders have become well-disguised predators, like wolves in sheep's clothing.

Israel's priests should care for their flock with love and justice, as human beings blessed by God. Instead, the priests and false prophets swindle the poor, neglect widows and orphans, and treat the people like human resources used for profit.

Just like Ahab with Naboth's vineyard, Israel's greedy leaders see, desire, and take land from vulnerable farmers (which means they steal the farmers' life source). Like Jezebel, these rulers use fraud and bloodshed to take what they want. Micah describes their violence against the poor in graphic terms. These false shepherds consume the people: ripping off their skin to feast on their flesh, cracking their "sheep" open to suck the marrow from their bones.

Meanwhile, Israel's sweet-talking false prophets sell flattering news. They promise security and upward mobility to anyone who stops at their fortune-telling booth. But their days of deception are numbered. Micah warns that Yahweh is about to bring disaster on Israel's silver-tongued schemers and ravenous rulers.

Like each prophet so far, Micah also brings a message of hope. God himself will shepherd the remnant of his people, restoring righteousness to Jerusalem and peace to all the Earth.

Watch the video to learn more about Yahweh's covenant justice and compassion in the book of Micah.



JULY 2026 | DAY 15

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

With Fellowship of the Rockies

SCRIPTURE

Micah 5
Micah 6
Micah 7
Psalms 10

Israel, prepare to meet God in court.

In today's reading, Yahweh launches a covenant lawsuit against his people. He accuses them of breaking the agreement they accepted at Mount Sinai. The first witnesses called? Mountains standing watch from the foundations of the Earth. Even the stones are crying out.

These solemn sentinels corroborate every piece of evidence with which Yahweh builds his case. The mountains witness God rescue the Israelites from Egypt, turn Balaam's curse into a blessing, and protect his chosen people through their Jordan River crossing and into the promised land. As mountains looked on, the Israelites then turned around and used their freedom to oppress their neighbors.

Israel argues back: Objection! Aren't we doing all the prescribed rituals and religious activities Yahweh wants us to? If Yahweh wants more sacrifices, why don't we just kill more animals?

But Yahweh can't be paid off. A whole flock of rams, even an ocean of oil, cannot bribe God or cover up Israel's injustice. God wants the same thing for Israel that he wanted all along. Yahweh wants the people to bless every family on Earth by displaying his character to the nations. This means choosing a way of life compelled by loyal love, justice, mercy, and humble care for others.



JULY 2026 | DAY 15 - CONTINUED

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

With Fellowship of the Rockies

SCRIPTURE

Micah 5
Micah 6
Micah 7
Psalms 10

And yet (as we saw in yesterday's reading), Micah tempers his accusations with trust and hope in God's promise. Yahweh will one day raise up a king from the insignificant little town of Bethlehem, which means "house of bread" in Hebrew, to nourish and shepherd his people. Under the rule of this good shepherd, the remnant of God's people will finally fulfill their calling to bless the nations (see Gen. 12:2-3).

This hopeful future will come to pass, guaranteed, not because Israel will finally shape up but because God will make it happen, according to his own power and wisdom. Once God's disciplinary, justice-restoring work is complete, the final verdict on Israel will be not "condemned" but beloved, forgiven, and restored.



JULY 2026 | DAY 16

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

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SCRIPTURE

Nahum 1
Nahum 2
Nahum 3
Psalms 11

One of the Hebrew Bible's most quoted passages is Exodus 34:6. There God describes his own character to Moses: "Yahweh, Yahweh, a God compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, overflowing with loyal love and faithfulness. He maintains loyal love for thousands, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin, yet he won't declare innocent the guilty."

We've seen this description of Yahweh's character show up over and over again in the biblical story. This includes three times in The Twelve: Joel 2:13, Jonah 4:2, and Micah 7:18-19.

In today's reading, the book of Nahum looks to this famous passage to emphasize God's unwillingness to ignore injustice. Yahweh is merciful and slow to anger. But take note, violent empires! Yahweh's merciful love does not mean he is indifferent toward evil. He will hold violent, deceitful, unjust people and nations accountable for the harm they inflict.

Nahum communicates his prophecy through poems, announcing the downfall of the biggest, baddest bully on the block—Assyria. The Israelites hear all about the Assyrian army's unquenchable bloodlust and the utter futility of trying to stop them.

But all who sow slaughter will one day reap ruin. Nineveh, Assyria's capital city, got drunk on the blood of the innocent and now must brace for a ferocious hangover.

Watch the video to learn about Yahweh's confrontation of human evil in the book of Nahum.



JULY 2026 | DAY 17

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

With Fellowship of the Rockies

SCRIPTURE

Habakkuk 1
Habakkuk 2
Habakkuk 3
Psalms 12

At this point in our journey through the Book of the Twelve, we've seen indignant prophets blasting Israel's numerous decisions to embrace evil. Firebrands like Hosea, Amos, and Micah burn with anger at the idolatry and injustice rotting their nation from the inside out.

When Yahweh's prophets accuse Israel of breaking its agreement with Yahweh, they never attempt to soften their warnings. Remember Amos? He calls Israel's religious elite the "cows of Bashan." He is saying they are fattened, lazy, and guided by their own carnal ignorance rather than God's divine wisdom.

Habakkuk lived in the same debauched period of Israel's history as many of the other prophets. He witnessed moral corruption that drew intense, colorful outcries from his counterparts. But today's reading contains no blistering critiques of Israel's sin—no sordid affairs, no putrid sacrifices, no cannibalistic shepherds.

Instead, the book of Habakkuk envisions a grieving prophet, wrestling with the complexity of God's justice. How could a wise and just God allow rebellion to run rampant among his chosen people? Also, how could God allow wicked, violent Babylon to amass so much wealth and power? Even worse, how could God allow this brutal nation to beat his own people, Israel, into the dirt?

Habakkuk's famous refrain—"How long, O Lord?"—repeats throughout the text, expressing something every human being trying to follow God may feel. God, how long will you let this corruption continue?



JULY 2026 | DAY 17 - CONTINUED

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

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SCRIPTURE

Habakkuk 1
Habakkuk 2
Habakkuk 3
Psalms 12

Habakkuk pours out his grief and confusion to Yahweh, and Yahweh answers. God meets Habakkuk in the bewildering darkness of the world and invites him to live by faith, to trust God's fierce love for his world, and to rest in the sure hope that God will one day take down evil for good. Watch the video to learn about Yahweh's mission to crush the head of evil empires in the book of Habakkuk.



JULY 2026 | DAY 18

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

With Fellowship of the Rockies

SCRIPTURE

Zephaniah 1
Zephaniah 2
Zephaniah 3
Psalms 13

Another Day of the Lord is at hand. That means de-creation desolation for all nations opposed to Yahweh.

Remember: “The Day of the Lord” in Scripture does not refer to only one day or era, but relates to days or times when God exposes and eradicates evil. It’s a good day for the oppressed and for those who trust Yahweh. It’s a (very) hard day for those who depend on evil and use it for personal gain.

The stately stone cities of Philistia crumble into rubble. Weeds choke out the grain in Moab’s golden fields. Ammon’s fertile soil shrivels into a salted wasteland. Feral scavengers burrow into the ruined remains of Assyria’s palaces. Once more, visceral images of suffocation and death describe what happens when disconnected from Yahweh, the life-giver. If these prophecies sound familiar, that’s because several of the same nations received a similar tongue-lashing from Amos.

In today’s reading, Zephaniah issues the same warning to the Southern Kingdom that Amos issued to the north more than a century prior: Israelites, if you follow after your violent, idolatrous neighbors, you’ll also share their fate.

When the Day of the Lord comes, Judah’s houses will collapse. The skies over Jerusalem will turn black. An act of divine refinement will bathe the whole Earth in flames that burn away wickedness to restore goodness.



JULY 2026 | DAY 18 - CONTINUED

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

With Fellowship of the Rockies

SCRIPTURE

Zephaniah 1
Zephaniah 2
Zephaniah 3
Psalms 13

Then this apocalyptic nightmare takes a twist. Instead of destroying all the non-Israelite nations, Yahweh's fire will purify Israel itself, transforming the people into a united family. The Day of the Lord and all its intensity may have left them stunned and silent, but now the world resounds with spontaneous song. The faithful remnant sings out their praise to God, and Yahweh sings back his delight over his people. Watch the video to learn about God's passionate justice and love in the book of Zephaniah.