

October 5/6, 2024
"The Backstory"
Pastor Aaron Buer



SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.

2024 Challenge: Finding Jesus in the Old Testament

October: Read Daniel, Hosea, Joel and Amos to see how people, situations and events point to Jesus

Day 1 [Daniel 7:13-14](#) | Jesus in the Prophets

In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. Daniel 7:13-14

This year, we look for Jesus in the Old Testament to see how God's plan always included Jesus saving us from our sins. We introduce new reading plans on the first Monday of every month.

This month, we explore how Jesus is revealed in Daniel and three other prophets: Hosea, Joel and Amos. These books, though diverse in their contexts, all point to God's faithfulness and the coming Messiah. Daniel prophesied during the Babylonian exile (6th century BC). Hosea, Joel and Amos ministered to Israel and Judah during times of spiritual decline with calls for repentance and promises of future blessing.

Daniel's visions foreshadow Jesus as the Son of Man with everlasting dominion ([Daniel 7:13-14](#)). Hosea's life mirrors God's faithful love, pointing to Jesus's sacrificial love for his church ([Hosea 3:1](#); [Ephesians 5:25](#)). Joel prophesies the outpouring of God's Spirit, fulfilled at Pentecost through Jesus ([Joel 2:28-29](#); [Acts 2:1-4](#)). Amos calls for justice and righteousness, which Jesus perfectly fulfills ([Amos 5:24](#); [Romans 3:25-26](#)). Throughout these books, we see glimpses of Jesus as the promised King ([Daniel 2:44](#)), the loving Bridegroom ([Hosea 2:19-20](#)), the giver of the Holy Spirit ([Joel 2:28-29](#)), and the righteous Judge ([Amos 5:24](#)). Each prophet, in his unique way, reveals aspects of Christ's character and mission.

TODAY: As you read this month, ask God to show you how these prophets point to Jesus. Thank him for his faithfulness in fulfilling his promises through Jesus.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Daniel 1-2](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Note the kingdom that endures forever. Consider how Jesus's kingdom will never end ([Luke 1:33](#)).

Day 2 [Acts 17:1-16](#) | Unshakable

As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah," he said. Acts 17:2-3

Paul's faith in Jesus perseveres and endures the most excruciating situations. His life is a testament to unshakable faith and purpose in Christ. God sends Paul on a special mission to spread the good news of Jesus to the Gentiles. Paul pursues this mission with a singular focus. His life and missionary journeys are not easy. Paul

repeatedly faces roadblocks, riots, violence and imprisonment. Paul's devotion to Christ allows him to press on no matter the circumstance. His faith is unwavering, unstoppable and unshakable. [Acts 17](#) reveals Paul's intense struggle during his brief time in Thessalonica. Paul later writes the letter of [1 Thessalonians](#) to encourage these new believers to have unshakable faith, too.

We, too, desire an unshakable faith that stands firm in any circumstance. We may know people who model this firm faith. Their cancer diagnosis deepened their well of peace and wisdom. Their release from addiction emboldened them to share the transformative love of Christ. Their broken marriage strengthened their trust and dependence on God. We, also, can have faith that remains strong in adversity. Throughout this series, we will explore what it takes to build an unshakable faith that points others toward Christ.

TODAY: Ask God to use this sermon series to strengthen your faith in him. Open your heart to a deeper love and devotion to Jesus. Then, commit to attending each week of this series. Trust that God will use the example of Paul's unshakable faith to inspire unwavering faith in your life.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Daniel 3-4](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Note the fourth man in the fiery furnace. Reflect on how Jesus is with us in everything, including our trials ([Matthew 28:20](#)).

Day 3 [Acts 16:6-10](#) | Unexpected

Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. Acts 16:6-7

Paul's missionary journey to Thessalonica is rife with unexpected challenges. From the journey's beginning, the unexpected occurs. His team disbands over internal arguments. Paul attempts to enter Asia, but the Holy Spirit prevents him. He tries another region, but again, Jesus turns him away. Paul could feel discouraged but remains confident of God's constant presence. Finally, he receives a vision of a man in Macedonia, the province of Thessalonica. The man begs Paul to come and help them. Although it goes against Paul's plans, he heads to Thessalonica with confidence that God has called him there.

A life of faith is not exempt from unexpected roadblocks and reroutes. We may move from job to job expecting our career to launch but finding it stalls instead. We may submit offer after offer for a new home only to get outbid and still be renting. We may explore every avenue toward parenthood but still await a precious child. Circumstances will not always meet our expectations, but God is with us in the unexpected. The success of our plans is not the barometer of God's presence in our lives. He walks with us when life doesn't go according to plan. Unshakable faith expects God in the unexpected.

TODAY: Take a moment to reflect on a past situation that disappointed or confused you. Invite Jesus to show you how he walked alongside you during that event. Then, join the Ada Bible Worship team as they sing "[You Keep Your Promises](#)."

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Daniel 5-6](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Consider how Daniel was unjustly accused and sentenced to death and how Jesus was also innocent and sentenced to death on our behalf.

Day 4 [Acts 17:1-15](#) | Unglued

But other Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a

mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to Jason's house in search of Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the crowd. Acts 17:5

Paul's obedience leads him to Thessalonica, where things become entirely unglued. He heads to the synagogue and preaches the gospel. Some receive salvation, but others are stirred to anger. Riots break out across the city, causing Paul and his traveling companion, Silas, to flee. The Thessalonians who assist Paul are arrested and imprisoned. By all accounts, Paul's missional efforts in Thessalonica have failed. Despite this perceived failure, Paul presses on. He and Silas continue to Berea, where he resumes his ministry efforts. Bereans believe in Jesus, but angry Thessalonians follow Paul and cause unrest in Berea, too. Berean believers urge Paul to flee for Athens.

We tend to think alignment with God's plans will bring comfort and ease. Paul's missionary journey challenges this belief. Obedience and submission to God do not exempt us from experiencing hardship and failure. Sometimes, everything seems to come unglued, even though we are following God's lead. We can trust that God has our good in mind even when things fall apart. Unshakable faith trusts God's hand in life's unglued, chaotic situations and perseveres. He can use what we perceive as failure to further his kingdom and turn hearts toward him.

TODAY: Jesus promises his presence in hardship and victory over trouble. Write that promise on your heart today by memorizing [John 16:33](#). "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Daniel 7-8](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Note the vision of the Son of Man. Consider how Jesus identifies himself as this Son of Man ([Matthew 26:63-64](#)).

Day 5 [Acts 17:16-17](#) | Unstoppable

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. Acts 17:16-17

Upon arriving in Athens, Paul becomes distressed by the Athenians' idol worship. So, with unstoppable persistence, he gets right back to work. He goes to the synagogue and marketplace to preach the good news. He has not forgotten his purpose despite unexpected challenges. He continues to take the next faithful step, no matter the circumstance. His motivation lies in his testimony of the transformative love of Christ. His greatest desire is that others would experience that same redeeming love.

We will encounter times when following Jesus doesn't go according to plan. We may experience confusion about where God is leading during those times. Returning to our purpose spurs us toward the next faithful step when we aren't sure of the way forward. The Great Commission, found in Matthew 28:19, still guides us today. "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Jesus commands us to continue to make disciples. The next faithful step in times of uncertainty and confusion is to continue to share what God has done for us. Our unshakable, unstoppable faith is a beacon for those who have lost their way and leads them back to a fulfilled life in Christ.

TODAY: Paul understood his purpose in life was to share his faith with others. That is the same for us! Grow your ability to share your faith by attending our three-week Ada Bible Academy class, Sharing Your Faith with Confidence, starting October 24. Learn more and register [HERE](#).

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Daniel 9-10](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Note the Anointed One who will end sin and atone for wickedness. Consider how this points to Jesus's work on the cross and his resurrection.