

Dear Sojourners of Faith,

As ever, I pray you are well. First of all, thank you for your gracious perseverance and patience as we “conclude” the “Hebrew Scriptures / Old Testament” with Daniel, Tobit, and 1 Maccabees—the latter two are in the canons of Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches but not in the Jewish or Protestant canons (Protestants consider them a part of the Apocrypha, about which I have spoken and handed out information in previous weeks; **see also below for more information**).

As for my C. S. Lewis book, which was promptly returned to me—thank you—please let me know if you would like to look at it or borrow it. I just needed it for a while for a resident.

And for next Wednesday, please review Daniel 7 and 1 Maccabees 1–2; 4.36–61 (Hanukkah) and bring all your observations and questions. The First Maccabees text can be found online at:

www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Maccabees%201&version=NRSVUE

Here is a note from a previous email:

I trust most of you have read and enjoyed Tobit by now as well as read Daniel, at least Daniel 7. I would be interested in hearing what you see as being (somewhat) different from what we have been reading and learning through prophetic texts. What evokes familiar themes, images, and texts, e.g., creation, captivity, Mosaic tradition, Davidic tradition?

We will learn about the new empire in charge of the world, viz., that of the Greeks after their victory over the Persians, who in turn had replaced, the Babylonians, who replaced the Assyrians, and before that the Egyptians in the time of the Exodus).

As before, if you are adventurous:

skim all of 1 Maccabees (source listed above)
read Matthew 1–3 especially Matthew 1.1–17

bonus: We will try the attached quiz next time as a class, but feel free to try on your own.

consider the Greeks:

www.pbs.org/empires/thegreeks/htmlver

As always, I look forward to **your observations and questions**, and please never hesitate to **suggest any biblical, theological, or life topics** along the way, even if they are only tangentially related. We can be flexible and take detours on our journey through the Bible. Remember that the unofficial title of our Bible study thus far is “**Anything and everything you always wanted to ask about the Bible but were too afraid or busy to ask.**”

Please see the “syllabus” online for where we are headed: Bible intro 2021-04 Ann’s Choice (also attached; printed copies available in front of my office in Resident Life, Liberty Commons).

For Zoomers, here are the instructions:

Zoom (online or using an app):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82395191045?pwd=TTRiQklwR2RhRzZkNFNlU2RRbGRoUT09>

Meeting ID: 823 9519 1045

Meeting Password: annschoice

Dial in by telephone: nearest phone access in New York City

Dial 1 (929) 205 6099

Enter Meeting ID: 823 9519 1045, followed by “#”

Enter Passcode: 394871 if requested

See you in class or via Zoom. Have a wonder-ful day and weekend (whenever that starts for you).

With prayer and best wishes,

