

I will pick up a book to read by Jane Austen or one of the Bronte sisters rather than choosing a book of science fiction. That's a little too far fetched and fanciful.

Some of today's readings from the lectionary come from the book of [Ezekiel](#), the priest turned prophet who lived in exile in Babylon. With meticulous accuracy the book dates Ezekiel's visions which can rival any writing for being way out there. There are winged, four-faced living creatures who looked like burning coals of fire and sped back and forth like flashes of lightening. Beside each creature was a levitating wheel intersecting a wheel that moved by remote control, a spirit, from the creature. Ezekiel received an assignment given by a voice emanating from above a sapphire throne. He was being sent to a rebellious people to speak words to them, whether they listen or not. A hand stretched out to him offering an unrolled scroll full of words of lament and mourning and woe. He was told to eat the scroll. It tasted as sweet as honey.

A joy of Bible study and reading is to find connectedness between passages of scripture. Another reading comes from [Revelation](#). Like Ezekiel, it is highly symbolic. Here a mighty angel comes from heaven, robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head. He plants his right foot on the sea, his left foot on the land, raises his right hand, swears and says, "Time's up."

There's more scroll eating. This time the scroll was a little one. The scroll was sweet to the mouth but sour to the stomach. This eating also came with an assignment, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings."

We are left with questions and pictures in our heads. Recognizing that in-depth study would yield insights, we can skim the surface for lessons for ourselves for now.

The scroll eaters were not given easy tasks. It was not all comfort scripture. Here we turn to our other reading for today, [Psalm 130](#). We see that none could stand if the Lord kept a record of sin. With the Lord is forgiveness, unfailing love, and full redemption.