

### Reading the Bible Through in a Year

There are many schedules for reading through the Bible through in a Year. Use the one that works for you.

Below is a simple one that follows the book order of the Bible, except that the New Testament readings are inserted along the way, that is, the Gospels are read in March, the second NT block is read in June and the third in July. The other months simply pick up the order of the Old Testament books. Reading about 25 pages a week (100 pages a month) will get you through the Bible in a Year. Blessed reading!

January	Gen, Exodus	<p>These are the first two of the Five Books of Moses. In Hebrew, they are called the Torah (the Law or Instructions).</p> <p>Genesis is the book of Beginnings: the Creation, the Fall, the first Promise of God sending the Saviour (Gen 3:15), Noah and the Flood, the New Beginning with the Covenant to Abraham (Gen 12), then Isaac, Jacob (Israel) and his sons, Joseph who save Jacob's family from famine, the growth of the Israelite people in Egypt.</p> <p>Exodus (the Way Out) is about Moses, the enslavement of the Israelites in Egypt, the deliverance of God, the giving of the Law, the establishment of substitutionary sacrifice.</p>
February	Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy	<p>These are the last 3 books of the Law. Leviticus begins with the main sacrifices, each symbolically representing an aspect of the work of Christ, and the day of Atonement (Lev 16) the giving of more laws (Read Lev 17 for laws that give astounding social and moral principles).</p> <p>Numbers contains a lot about the counting of the men of the 12 tribes, the 12 spies sent into the land of Canaan, the fear that resulted in God consigning that generation to wander for 40 years, and more laws.</p> <p>Deuteronomy (the second giving of the Law), In this book Moses recaps the Law and prepares the new generation to enter the land of Canaan. Not even Moses will enter the land --only Caleb and Joshua.</p> <p>Deuteronomy has some of the loftiest statements of law, as well as the blessings of obedience and the curses attached to disobedience.</p>
March	Matthew, Mark, Luke, John	<p>These are the books written to recount the life and teaching of Jesus. Read each book to get 4 important different views. There are differences in emphasis and telling. Enjoy each the similarities and differences in emphasis. There is so much to learn about Jesus. Only two (Matthew and Luke) have the 'Christmas story.' Only John begins in Eternity Past. Mark is the most punctiliar in style. All of them focus strongly on the events around the death and resurrection of Jesus. John's Gospel teaches us a lot about the Holy Spirit, sent by Jesus.</p>
April	Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel	<p>Joshua takes over leadership of the Israelites. This is the account of Israel settling the land of Canaan, the judgment of the nations living the land. The judges were the strongman leaders of the 12 tribes in the early days of their settlement. One of the strong 'men' was a woman! The Philistines and others continue to oppress them the tribes. The people call out to God and He sends them a deliverer. The judges were men often with hearts of stone and feet of clay, in a time when people did what they pleased and forgot the ways of God. But God used them for His purposes and to save His people! The little book of Ruth happens in the time of the Judges. It is a beautiful story of God, Who redeems a Moabite woman. She is</p>

		redeemed and becomes part of the bloodline to David, the man who became King. God promised that there would be a Greater Son who would on the throne of His father, David, forever! 1 & 2 Samuel tells about the time of the prophets beginning with Samuel, the cry of the people for a king – the first king Saul, and then about David, the man after God’s own heart. 1 & 2 Samuel were originally one book.
May	2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings	2 Samuel continues tell the story of King David, the greatest king in the history of Israel, who becomes the ‘type’ for the coming of the Great King, Jesus. 1, 2 Kings (originally one book) is the sequel to 1, 2 Samuel. Kings tell us about the split of Israel (10 tribes) and Judah (2 tribes) and then the history of the kings of Israel and Judah in the light of God’s covenant given through Moses. The good kings keep God’s covenant. The evil didn’t. Follow the ups and downs of Israel and Judah.
June	Acts, Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesian, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians	Acts is about ‘all that Jesus continued to do’ through the person of the Holy Spirit. It begins with the Great Commission, the Ascension, the Day of Pentecost, the early preaching in Jerusalem, the persecution of the followers of ‘the Way’, the conversion of Saul (Paul), the formal inclusion of the Gentiles (Acts 10), the spread of the Gospel beyond the borders of Palestine, the Gentile mission led by Paul. Romans and the rest of these letters from Paul are organized longest to shortest. They are not in chronological order. They are ‘missionary’ letters written by Paul to extend or confirm his preaching and teaching to the communities of new Jesus followers. We see how the teachings of Jesus and the redemptive significance of the death and resurrection of Jesus have shaped the teaching of Paul. Paul is often problem solving giving guidance to people struggling to live in the power of the Spirit of Jesus.
July	1, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1, 2 Peter, 1, 2, 3 John, Jude, Revelation	1, 2 Timothy, Titus are called the Pastoral Epistles with Paul giving advice and directions to two team members, and the Philemon a remarkable plea by Paul for the release of a slave who has come to Jesus. Philemon is last because it is the shortest letter in the Pauline collection. Then comes Hebrews written to Jewish followers of Jesus in danger of caving in and being reabsorbed into the traditional Jewish community. Jesus is superior to Moses and angels and is the fulfillment of all the promises typologically foreshadowed in the Levitical sacrificial system. The letter of James, half-brother to Jesus, emphasizes that faith without works (obedience) is dead. Peter’s two letters and John’s first letter emphasizes the inseparable nature of loving God and loving others. Peter’s first letter provides a good way to think about how we should relate to a society that is hostile to followers of Jesus. Revelation is a type of literature that we are not used to. Full of visions and symbols, it’s intent is to strengthen us to remain faithful in the face of opposition and persecution. Those who read, along with Daniel, miss the point. Jesus wants us to stay true to our ‘missionary’ task! God is in control and the future is golden.
August	1, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther	Chronicles is written in the time of the return from Exile (the time of Ezra and Nehemiah). There are parallels to the history in Samuel and Kings (written during the Exile), but the emphasis is different. For the post-exilic community, the question is, ‘Is God still interested in us?’ To establish continuity with the past, there is much about the word of God: the books of Moses, the Law and the words of the prophets. The fact that there was no Davidic king was a concern to lead them. So there is much told about the positive leadership of David and Solomon. The message is that God has not forgotten His people.

September	Job, Psalms	<p>Job is a remarkable reflection on ‘Why do bad things happen to good people?’ It is the life of one man, Job. Both Job and his friends use a faulty logic: Good things happen to good people, bad things happen to bad people. Bad things happen to you. You must be bad. God answers in the final chapters. The answer is, don’t expect to understand. Just trust. There is actually deeper question being asked: ‘Will you love God for His own sake, or just for the good He gives you?’</p> <p>The Psalms are a collection of the songs of Israel. They have been recompiled into 5 sections. Some 72 are by David. They are the words of David and others TO God, that become the word of God to us. They provide a powerful seed bed for our praying and worship. Halleluia (Praise the LORD!)</p>
October	Proverbs, Isaiah	<p>Proverbs is first in the ‘wisdom literature’ of the Bible --rich in general spiritual principles that will nurture character.</p> <p>Isaiah is the first of the ‘Major’ prophets—major in the sense that it was long and needed its own scroll. The others in diminishing size are Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel. Isaiah is not chronologically the first. It records the prophecies of Isaiah from the time after the fall of Israel and before the captivity of Judah. Like all the prophets generally, there is a word of judgement and a promise of restoration. It contains many of the best known OT prophecies of the Great Redeemer.</p>
November	Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel	<p>Jeremiah, called the weeping prophet (see Lamentations), likewise has harsh words, telling Judah to accept that it will spend 70 years and captivity but that God has not abandoned His people. There is coming a day when He will write His law on their hearts and everyone will know God! Ezekiel writing during the captivity gives visions of God’s deliverance. The valley of dry bones is a well known prophecy. Again the promise of God to deliver His people.</p>
December	Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi	<p>Daniel is also from the time in captivity in Babylon and follows the career of Daniel, a captive, who is given high position in successive administrations and who is given the ability to interpret dreams and to see visions. The overall message is that God is in control of the kings and kingdoms of the world. And all human empires will fall and eventually come under the authority of God’s divine man, ‘the Son of Man’ who comes on the clouds to exercise universal dominion.</p> <p>Then come the twelve Minor prophets so-called because all 12 are short enough to be copied onto a single scroll. The same themes of judgment on the wicked and God’s final redemption of His people dominate.</p> <p>The judgments of God remind us that sin is serious and it gives us the basis for understanding our need for a substitute in Jesus, who will bear the wrath of God on our behalf. God intends to rescue His people and to restore His people to Himself. It will cost Him beyond measure (John 3:16)</p>