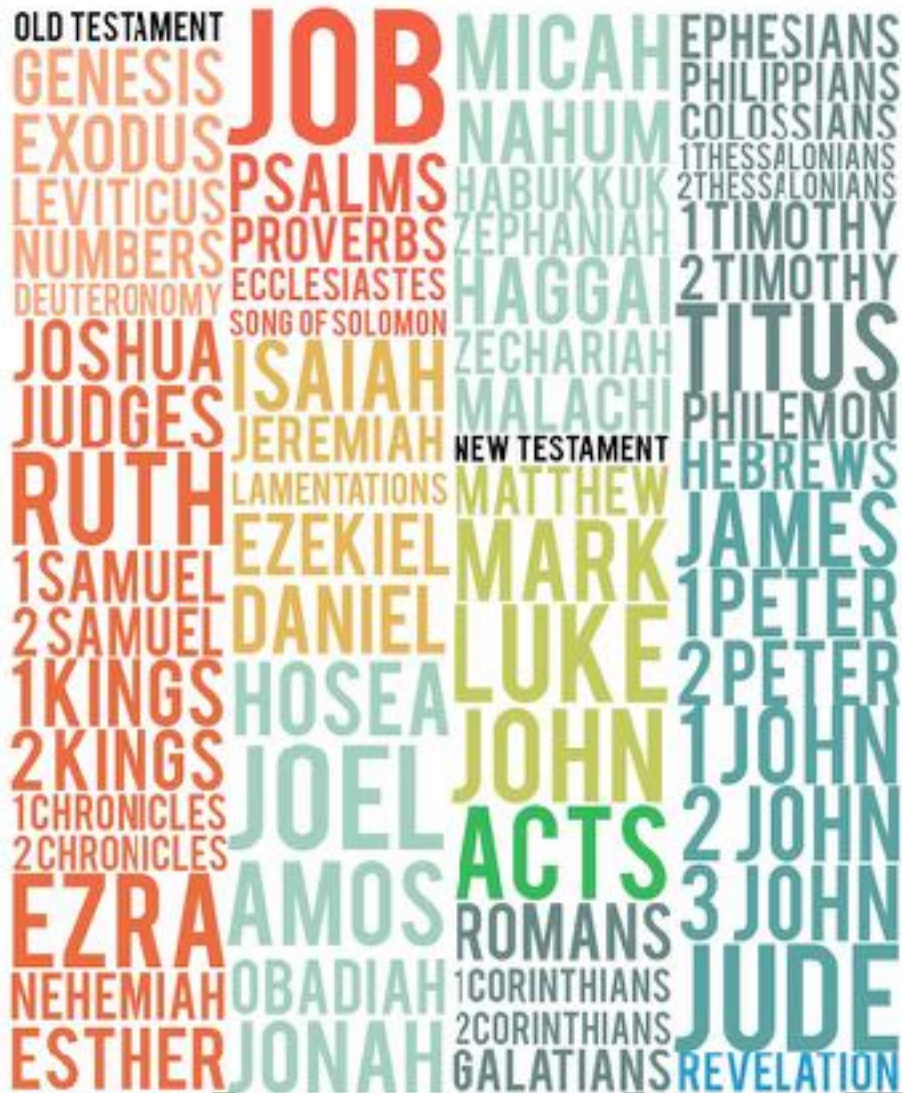




Church on the Rise

A CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE



Church on the Rise

2018 Bible Reading Plan

Literary Styles of the Bible

Literary Styles of the Bible

The Bible is God's testimony of His interaction with His creation. It is divinely inspired, inerrantly revealing the will of God concerning us in all things necessary to our salvation¹. However, many people do not realize how the Bible actually came to be as we know it now.

The Bible was written by human authors who were inspired by God to record these events and spiritual truths. The Bible is actually a collection of 66 different books that are written by at least 20 different authors. These books were written at different times, with various original intended readers, but also in various differing styles.

Just in the same way you wouldn't read a history book as you would read the words to your favorite song or a personal letter to a friend, understanding the various literary styles of the Bible help us to better understand the meaning of the differing sections of the Bible and how we can best apply those verses, chapters and books to our lives.

This sectioning of the Holy Scriptures up into different literary styles is not an exact science and at times you will encounter a passage of scripture that is included in the Gospels that is poetic in nature or some verses in the historical portions that would best be described as prophetic in nature. But as a general rule each of the seven areas that we have allotted for the reading plan can best categorize the books that are included.

Gospels - (Sunday) - A gospel is a unique literature style found in the Bible. Literarily speaking, to be a gospel it must include more than just the life and events of Jesus but also the death and resurrection of Jesus. We have included the Book of Acts in this section of the reading plan and technically it is not a gospel, but it seems to fit best here rather than in the History section.

Law - (Monday) - The first five books of the Bible, also known as the Torah, The Pentateuch or The Law of Moses. These books were the foundation of the Jewish faith and still serve as the basis for all of Christian moral standards.

History - (Tuesday) - These books of the bible cover the journey; spiritual and physical, of God's chosen people (Israel) as they grew from a tribe of Hebrew slaves in Egypt, to a powerful nation in the promised Land, and then through the fall and restoration as they wandered away from and back to the One True God.

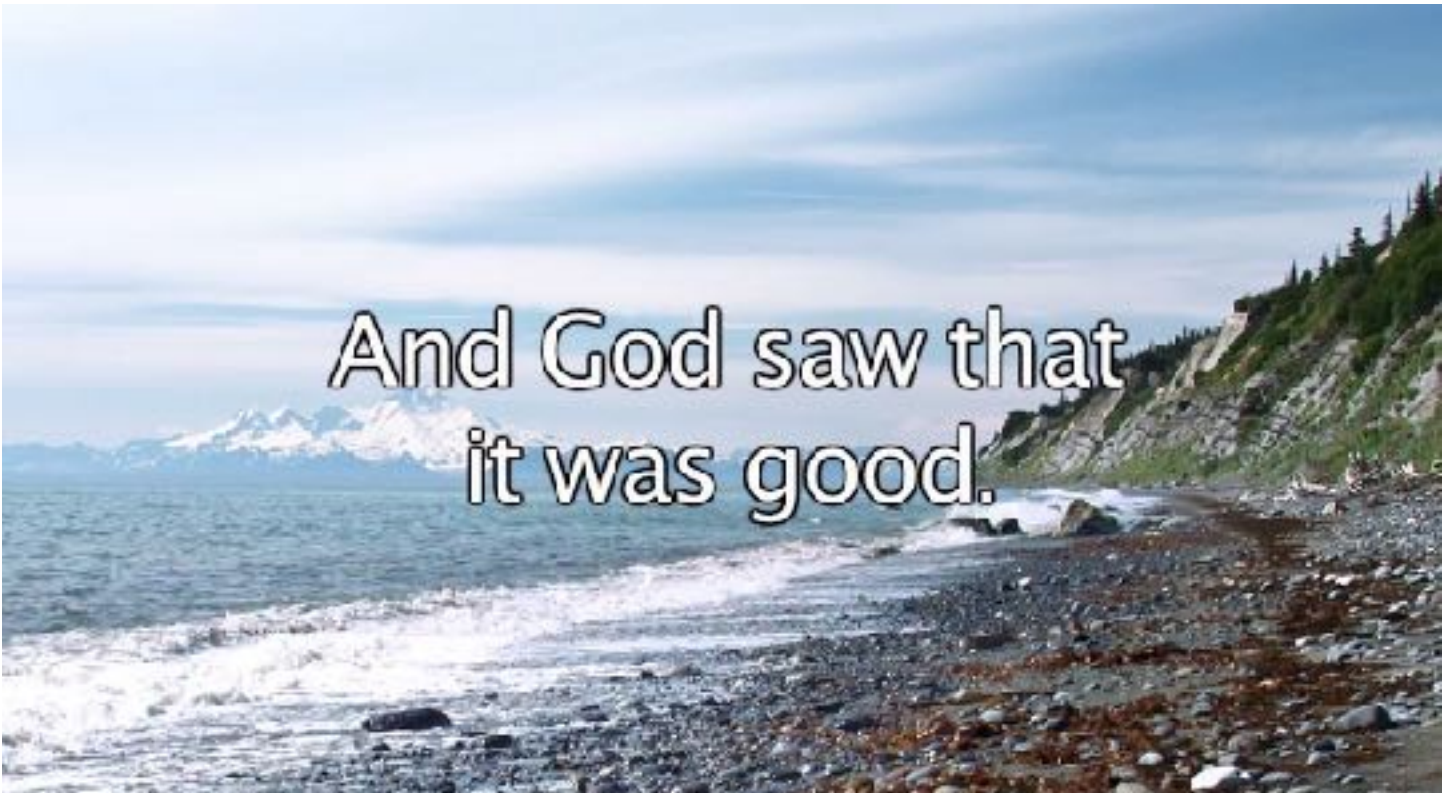
Psalms - (Wednesday) - These verses are poetic mostly but different than poetry. They are songs and laments to God. They capture the emotion and artistry that often accompanies songs; Praises of incredible adoration and cries of anguish that capture the times of hardship.

Poetry - (Thursday) - These writings are best understood when read with the mindset that symbolism and prose are the dominant influences to the author. The situations are still real, but the illustrations and flow of verse use poetic images to illustrate the scene and emotion.

Prophecy - (Friday) - These books have a great deal of history in them, however, the dominant theme tends to point to future events. Warnings or judgement or consequences if current behavior does not change, or of God's ultimate plan to redeem the world, in sending the Messiah, or make all things new, with the return of Jesus Christ.

Letters - (Saturday) - These are actual letters written to actual people and churches. They cover a wide range of spiritual and moral issues that were specific to the original audience, but the Bible is alive and still applies to us today.

¹ Church of the Nazarene Manual - Article of Faith IV



January

| | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Week # | Gospels | Law | History | Psalms | Poetry | Prophecy | Letters |
| 1 Jan 1-6 | | 1 <i>Genesis</i> 1-3 | 2 <i>Joshua</i> 1-5 | 3 <i>Psalms</i> 1-2 | 4 <i>Job</i> 1-2 | 5 <i>Isaiah</i> 1-6 | 6 <i>Romans</i> 1-2 |
| 2 Jan 7-13 | 7 <i>Matthew</i> 1-2 | 8 <i>Genesis</i> 4-7 | 9 <i>Joshua</i> 6-10 | 10 <i>Psalms</i> 3-5 | 11 <i>Job</i> 3-4 | 12 <i>Isaiah</i> 7-11 | 13 <i>Romans</i> 3-4 |
| 3 Jan 14-20 | 14 <i>Matthew</i> 3-4 | 15 <i>Genesis</i> 8-11 | 16 <i>Joshua</i> 11-15 | 17 <i>Psalms</i> 6-8 | 18 <i>Job</i> 5-6 | 19 <i>Isaiah</i> 12-17 | 20 <i>Romans</i> 5-6 |
| 4 Jan 21-27 | 21 <i>Matthew</i> 5-7 | 22 <i>Genesis</i> 12-15 | 23 <i>Joshua</i> 16-20 | 24 <i>Psalms</i> 9-11 | 25 <i>Job</i> 7-8 | 26 <i>Isaiah</i> 18-22 | 27 <i>Romans</i> 7-8 |
| 5 Jan 28-31 | 28 <i>Matthew</i> 8-10 | 29 <i>Genesis</i> 16-19 | 30 <i>Joshua</i> 21-24 | 31 <i>Psalms</i> 12-14 | | | |

Bless those who persecute you;
bless and do not curse.

Romans 12:14

DailyVerses.net

February

| | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Week # | Gospels | Law | History | Psalms | Poetry | Prophecy | Letters |
| 5 Feb 1-3 | | | | | 1 Job 9-10 | 2 Isaiah 23-28 | 3 Romans 9-10 |
| 6 Feb 4-10 | 4 Matthew 11-13 | 5 Genesis 20-23 | 6 Judges 1-6 | 7 Psalms 15-17 | 8 Job 11-12 | 9 Isaiah 29-33 | 10 Romans 11-12 |
| 7 Feb 11-17 | 11 Matthew 14-16 | 12 Genesis 24-27 | 13 Judges 7-11 | 14 Psalms 18-20 | 15 Job 13-14 | 16 Isaiah 34-39 | 17 Romans 13-14 |
| 8 Feb 18-24 | 18 Matthew 17-19 | 19 Genesis 28-31 | 20 Judges 12-16 | 21 Psalms 21-23 | 22 Job 15-16 | 23 Isaiah 40-44 | 24 Romans 15-16 |
| 9 Feb 25-28 | 25 Matthew 20-22 | 26 Genesis 32-35 | 27 Judges 17-21 | 28 Psalms 24-26 | | | |

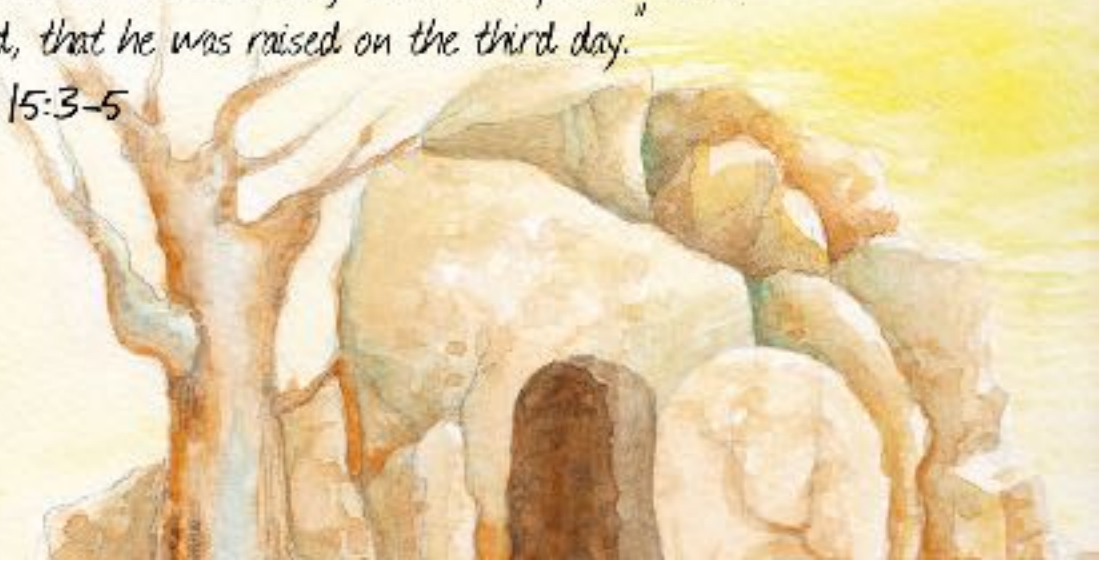


| March | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| Week # | Gospels | Law | History | Psalms | Poetry | Prophecy | Letters |
| 9 Mar 1-3 | | | | | 1 Job 17-18 | 2 Isaiah 45-50 | 3 1 Corinthians 1-2 |
| 10 Mar 4-10 | 4 Matthew 23-25 | 5 Genesis 36-39 | 6 Ruth 1-4 | 7 Psalms 27-29 | 8 Job 19-20 | 9 Isaiah 51-55 | 10 1 Corinthians 3-4 |
| 11 Mar 11-17 | 11 Matthew 26-28 | 12 Genesis 40-43 | 13 1 Samuel 1-5 | 14 Psalms 30-32 | 15 Job 21-22 | 16 Isaiah 56-61 | 17 1 Corinthians 5-6 |
| 12 Mar 18-24 | 18 Mark 1-2 | 19 Genesis 44-47 | 20 1 Samuel 6-10 | 21 Psalms 33-35 | 22 Job 23-24 | 23 Isaiah 62-66 | 24 1 Corinthians 7-8 |
| 13 Mar 25-31 | 25 Mark 3-4 | 26 Genesis 48-50 | 27 1 Samuel 11-15 | 28 Psalms 36-38 | 29 Job 25-26 | 30 Jeremiah 1-6 | 31 1 Corinthians 9-10 |

The Empty Tomb!

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day."

1 Corinthians 15:3-5



April

| | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Week # | Gospels | Law | History | Psalms | Poetry | Prophecy | Letters |
| 14 Apr 1-7 | 1 Mark 5-6 | 2 Exodus 1-4 | 3 1 Samuel 16-20 | 4 Psalms 39-41 | 5 Job 27-28 | 6 Jeremiah 7-11 | 7 1 Corinthians 11-12 |
| 15 Apr 8-14 | 8 Mark 7-8 | 9 Exodus 5-8 | 10 1 Samuel 21-25 | 11 Psalms 42-44 | 12 Job 29-30 | 13 Jeremiah 12-16 | 14 1 Corinthians 13-14 |
| 16 Apr 15-21 | 15 Mark 9-10 | 16 Exodus 9-12 | 17 1 Samuel 26-31 | 18 Psalms 45-47 | 19 Job 31-32 | 20 Jeremiah 17-21 | 21 1 Corinthians 15-16 |
| 17 Apr 16-28 | 22 Mark 11-12 | 23 Exodus 13-16 | 24 2 Samuel 1-4 | 25 Psalms 48-50 | 26 Job 33-34 | 27 Jeremiah 22-26 | 28 2 Corinthians 1-3 |
| 18 Apr 29-30 | 29 Mark 13-14 | 30 Exodus 17-20 | | | | | |

For I know the plans I have for you,
 declares the Lord, plans to prosper you
 and not to harm you, plans to give you
 hope and a future.
Jeremiah 29:11

Daily Verses II

May

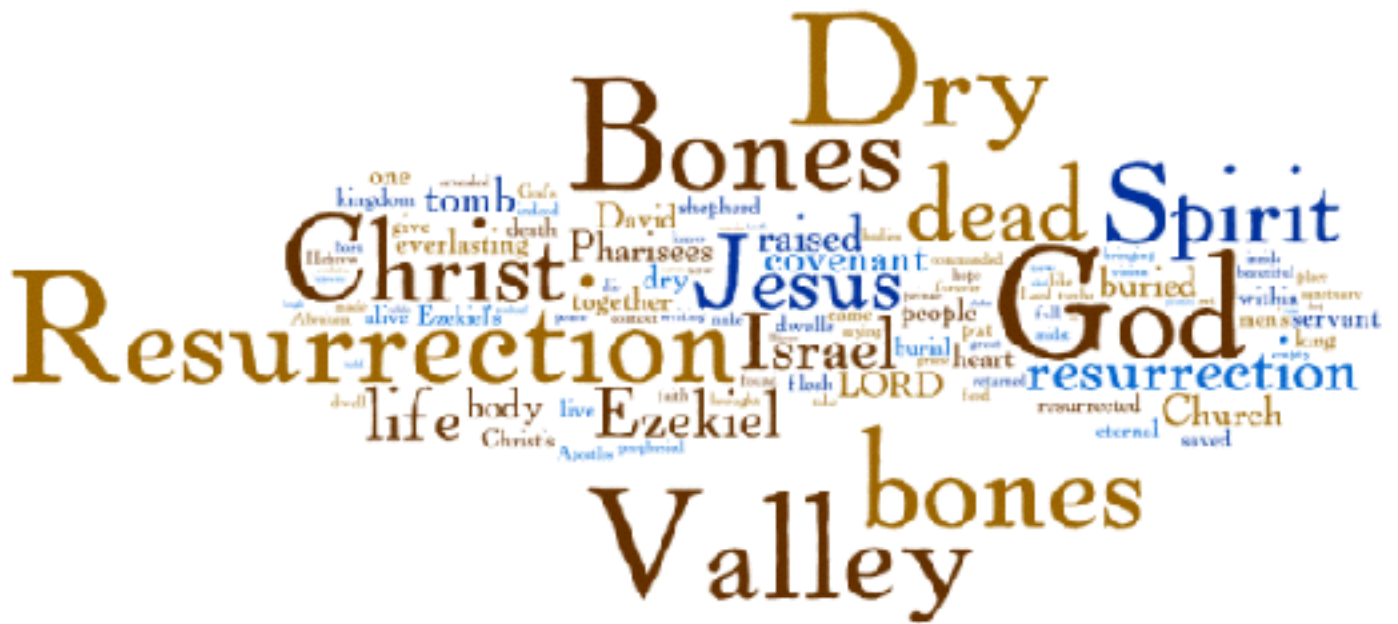
| | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Week # | Gospels | Law | History | Psalms | Poetry | Prophecy | Letters |
| 18 May 1-5 | | | 1 2 Samuel 5-9 | 2 Psalms 51-53 | 3 Job 35-36 | 4 Jeremiah 27-31 | 5 2 Corinthians 4-5 |
| 19 May 6-12 | 6 Mark 15-16 | 7 Exodus 21-24 | 8 2 Samuel 10-14 | 9 Psalms 54-56 | 10 Job 37-38 | 11 Jeremiah 32-36 | 12 2 Corinthians 6-8 |
| 20 May 13-19 | 13 Luke 1-2 | 14 Exodus 25-28 | 15 2 Samuel 15-19 | 16 Psalms 57-59 | 17 Job 39-40 | 18 Jeremiah 37-41 | 19 2 Corinthians 9-10 |
| 21 May 20-26 | 20 Luke 3-4 | 21 Exodus 29-32 | 22 2 Samuel 20-24 | 23 Psalms 60-62 | 24 Job 41-42 | 25 Jeremiah 42-46 | 26 2 Corinthians 11-13 |
| 22 May 27-31 | 27 Luke 5-6 | 28 Exodus 33-36 | 29 1 Kings 1-4 | 30 Psalms 63-65 | 31 Proverbs 1 | | |

Trust IN THE LORD WITH
 ALL YOUR HEART
 AND LEAN NOT ON YOUR
 OWN UNDERSTANDING
 IN ALL YOUR WAYS
 ACKNOWLEDGE HIM
 AND HE WILL DIRECT
 YOUR PATHS.

Proverbs 3:5-6

June

| | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Week # | Gospels | Law | History | Psalms | Poetry | Prophecy | Letters |
| 22 Jun 1-2 | | | | | | 1 Jeremiah 47-52 | 2 Galatians 1-3 |
| 23 Jun 3-9 | 3 Luke 7-8 | 4 Exodus 37-40 | 5 1 Kings 5-9 | 6 Psalms 66-68 | 7 Proverbs 2-3 | 8 Lamentations 1-5 | 9 Galatians 4-6 |
| 24 Jun 10-16 | 10 Luke 9-10 | 11 Leviticus 1-3 | 12 1 Kings 10-13 | 13 Psalms 69-71 | 14 Proverbs 4 | 15 Ezekiel 1-6 | 16 Ephesians 1-3 |
| 25 Jun 17-23 | 17 Luke 11-12 | 18 Leviticus 4-6 | 19 1 Kings 14-18 | 20 Psalms 72-74 | 21 Proverbs 5-6 | 22 Ezekiel 7-12 | 23 Ephesians 4-6 |
| 26 Jun 24-30 | 24 Luke 13-14 | 25 Leviticus 7-9 | 26 1 Kings 19-22 | 27 Psalms 75-77 | 28 Proverbs 7 | 29 Ezekiel 13-18 | 30 Philippians 1-2 |



| July | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| Week # | Gospels | Law | History | Psalms | Poetry | Prophecy | Letters |
| 27 July 1-7 | 1 Luke 15-16 | 2 Leviticus 10-12 | 3 2 Kings 1-5 | 4 Psalms 78-80 | 5 Proverbs 8-9 | 6 Ezekiel 19-24 | 7 Philippians 3-4 |
| 28 Jul 8-14 | 8 Luke 17-18 | 9 Leviticus 13-15 | 10 2 Kings 6-10 | 11 Psalms 81-83 | 12 Proverbs 10 | 13 Ezekiel 25-30 | 14 Colossians 1-2 |
| 29 Jul 15-21 | 15 Luke 19-20 | 16 Leviticus 16-18 | 17 2 Kings 11-15 | 18 Psalms 84-86 | 19 Proverbs 11-12 | 20 Ezekiel 31-36 | 21 Colossians 3-4 |
| 30 Jul 22-28 | 22 Luke 21-22 | 23 Leviticus 19-21 | 24 2 Kings 16-20 | 25 Psalms 87-89 | 26 Proverbs 13 | 27 Ezekiel 37-42 | 28 1 Thessalonians 1-3 |
| 31 Jul 29-31 | 29 Luke 23-24 | 30 Leviticus 22-24 | 31 2 Kings 1-5 | | | | |



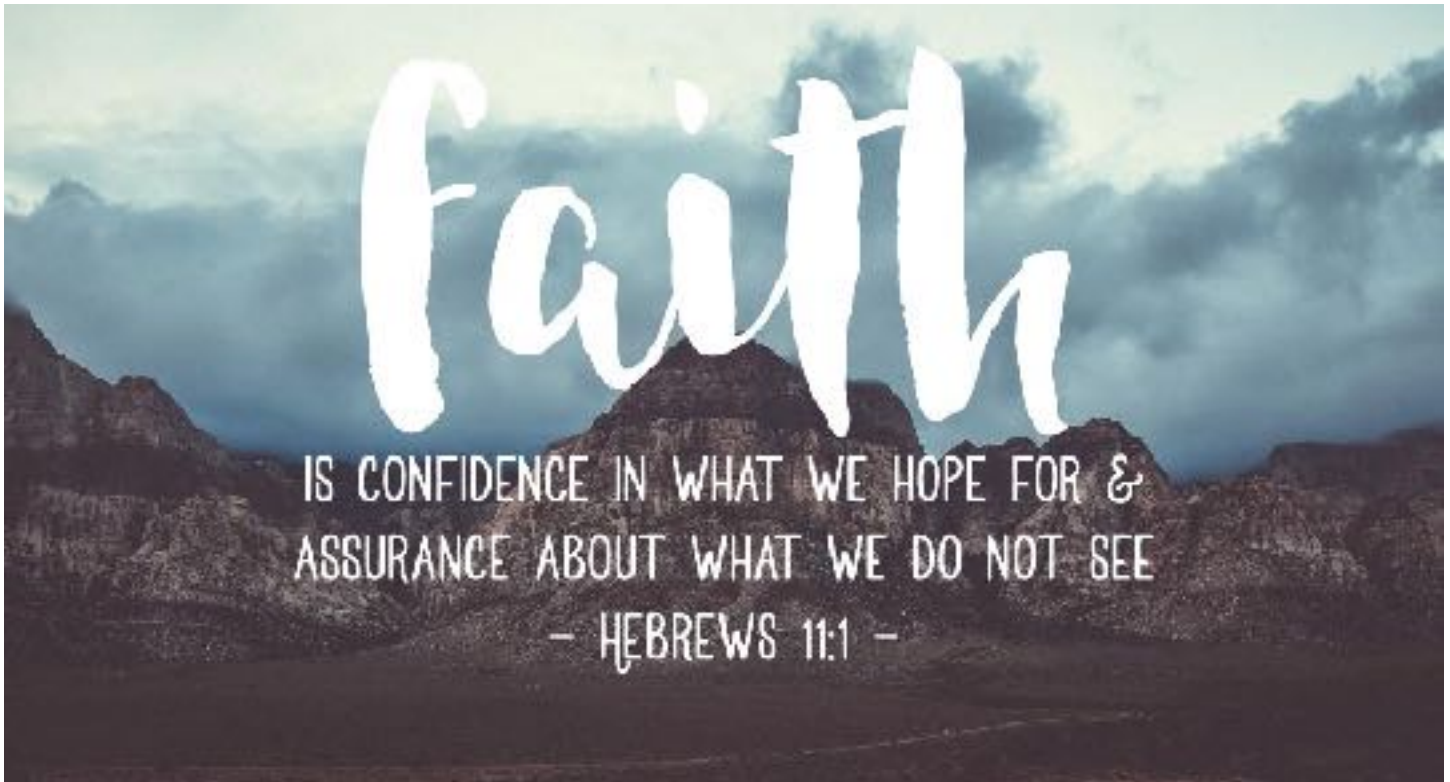
| August | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| Week # | Gospels | Law | History | Psalms | Poetry | Prophecy | Letters |
| 31 Aug 1-4 | | | | 1 Psalms 90-92 | 2 Proverbs 14-15 | 3 Ezekiel 43-48 | 4 1 Thessalonians 4-5 |
| 32 Aug 5-11 | 5 John 1-2 | 6 Leviticus 25-27 | 7 1 Chronicles 1-4 | 8 Psalms 93-95 | 9 Proverbs 16 | 10 Daniel 1-6 | 11 2 Thessalonians 1-3 |
| 33 Aug 12-18 | 12 John 3-4 | 13 Numbers 1-4 | 14 1 Chronicles 5-9 | 15 Psalms 96-98 | 16 Proverbs 17-18 | 17 Daniel 7-12 | 18 1 Timothy 1-3 |
| 34 Aug 19-25 | 19 John 5-6 | 20 Numbers 5-8 | 21 1 Chronicles 10-14 | 22 Psalms 99-101 | 23 Proverbs 19 | 24 Hosea 1-7 | 25 1 Timothy 4-6 |
| 35 Aug 26-31 | 26 John 7-9 | 27 Numbers 9-12 | 28 1 Chronicles 15-19 | 29 Psalms 102-104 | 30 Proverbs 20-21 | 31 Hosea 8-14 | |

All scripture is God-Breathed
 and is useful for teaching,
 rebuking, correcting &
 training in righteousness,
 so that the man of God
 may be thoroughly equipped
 for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

September

| | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Week # | Gospels | Law | History | Psalms | Poetry | Prophecy | Letters |
| 35 Sep 1 | | | | | | | 1 2 Timothy 1-2 |
| 36 Sep 2-8 | 2 John 10-12 | 3 Numbers 13-16 | 4 1 Chronicles 20-24 | 5 Psalms 105-107 | 6 Proverbs 22 | 7 Joel 1-3 | 8 2 Timothy 3-4 |
| 37 Sep 9-15 | 9 John 13-15 | 10 Numbers 17-20 | 11 1 Chronicles 25-29 | 12 Psalms 108-110 | 13 Proverbs 23-24 | 14 Amos 1-4 | 15 Titus 1-3 |
| 38 Sep 16-22 | 16 John 16-18 | 17 Numbers 21-24 | 18 2 Chronicles 1-5 | 19 Psalms 111-113 | 20 Proverbs 25 | 21 Amos 5-9 | 22 Philemon 1 |
| 39 Sep 23-30 | 23 John 19-21 | 24 Numbers 25-28 | 25 2 Chronicles 6-10 | 26 Psalms 114-116 | 27 Proverbs 26-27 | 28 Obadiah 1 | 29 Hebrews 1-4 |
| 40 Oct 30 | 30 Acts 1-2 | | | | | | |

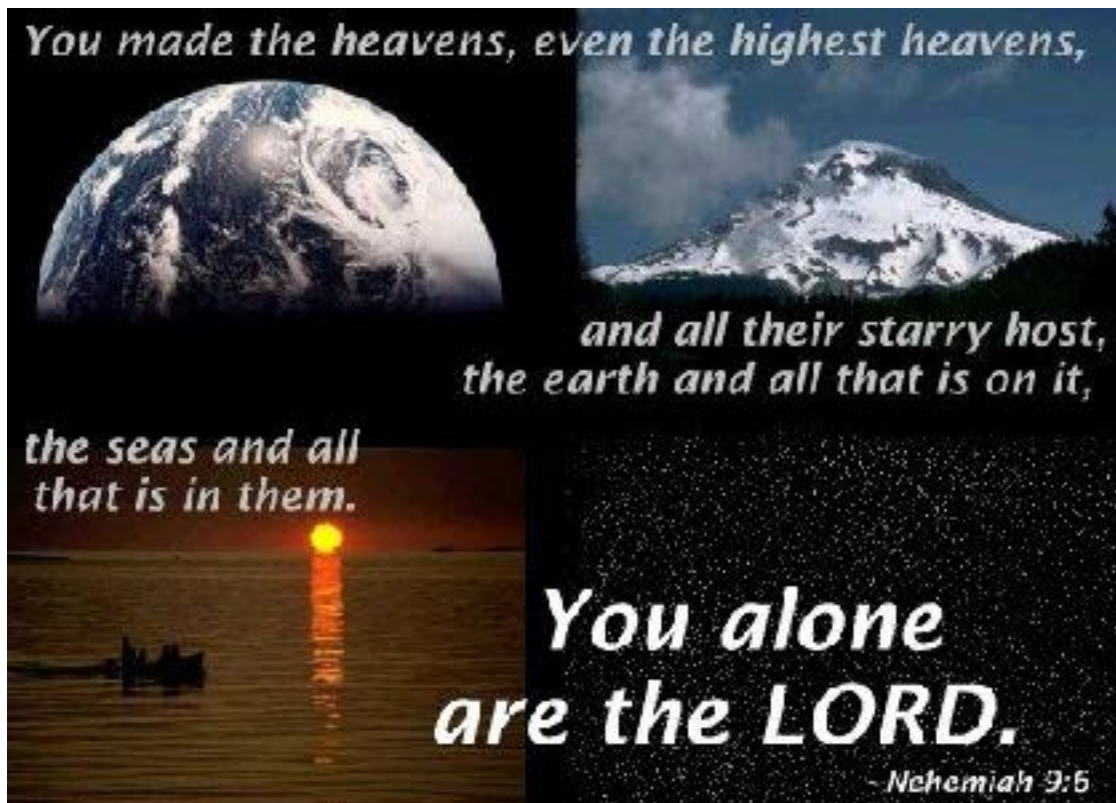


| October | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| Week # | Gospels | Law | History | Psalms | Poetry | Prophecy | Letters |
| 40 Oct 1-6 | | 1 Numbers 29-32 | 2 2 Chronicles 11-15 | 3 Psalms 117-118 | 4 Proverbs 28 | 5 Jonah 1-4 | 6 Hebrews 5-7 |
| 41 Oct 7-13 | 7 Acts 3-4 | 8 Numbers 33-36 | 9 2 Chronicles 16-20 | 10 Psalms 119 | 11 Proverbs 29-30 | 12 Micah 1-7 | 13 Hebrews 8-10 |
| 42 Oct 14-20 | 14 Acts 5-6 | 15 Deuteronomy 1-3 | 16 2 Chronicles 21-24 | 17 Psalms 120-121 | 18 Proverbs 31 | 19 Nahum 1-3 | 20 Hebrews 11-13 |
| 43 Oct 21-27 | 21 Acts 7-8 | 22 Deuteronomy 4-6 | 23 2 Chronicles 25-28 | 24 Psalms 122-124 | 25 Ecclesiastes 1-2 | 26 Habakkuk 1-3 | 27 James 1-3 |
| 44 Oct 28-31 | 28 Acts 9-10 | 29 Deuteronomy 7-9 | 30 2 Chronicles 29-32 | 31 Psalms 125-127 | | | |

Search me, God, and know
my heart;
test me and know my
anxious thoughts. Psalm 139:23

November

| | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Week # | Gospels | Law | History | Psalms | Poetry | Prophecy | Letters |
| 44 Nov 1-3 | | | | | 1 Ecclesiastes 3-4 | 2 Zephaniah 1-3 | 3 James 4-5 |
| 45 Nov 4-10 | 4 Acts 11-12 | 5 Deuteronomy 10-12 | 6 2 Chronicles 33-36 | 7 Psalms 128-130 | 8 Ecclesiastes 5-6 | 9 Haggai 1-2 | 10 1 Peter 1-3 |
| 46 Nov 11-17 | 11 Acts 13-14 | 12 Deuteronomy 13-15 | 13 Ezra 1-5 | 14 Psalms 131-133 | 15 Ecclesiastes 7-8 | 16 Zechariah 1-7 | 17 1 Peter 4-5 |
| 47 Nov 18-24 | 18 Acts 15-16 | 19 Deuteronomy 16-18 | 20 Ezra 6-10 | 21 Psalms 134-136 | 22 Ecclesiastes 9-10 | 23 Zechariah 8-14 | 24 2 Peter 1-3 |
| 48 Nov 25-30 | 25 Acts 17-18 | 26 Deuteronomy 19-21 | 27 Nehemiah 1-4 | 28 Psalms 137-139 | 29 Ecclesiastes 11-12 | 30 Malachi 1-4 | |



December

| | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Week # | Gospels | Law | History | Psalms | Poetry | Prophecy | Letters |
| 48 Dec 1 | | | | | | | 1 1 John 1-3 |
| 49 Dec 2-8 | 2 Acts 19-20 | 3 Deuteronomy 22-24 | 4 Nehemiah 5-9 | 5 Psalms 140-142 | 6 Song of Sol. 1-2 | 7 Revelation 1-6 | 8 1 John 4-5 |
| 50 Dec 9-15 | 9 Acts 21-22 | 10 Deuteronomy 25-27 | 11 Nehemiah 10-13 | 12 Psalms 143-145 | 13 Song of Sol. 3-4 | 14 Revelation 7-11 | 15 2 John 1 |
| 51 Dec 16-22 | 16 Acts 23-24 | 17 Deuteronomy 28-29 | 18 Esther 1-5 | 19 Psalms 146-148 | 20 Song of Sol. 5-6 | 21 Revelation 12-17 | 22 3 John 1 |
| 52 Dec 23-29 | 23 Acts 25-26 | 24 Deuteronomy 30-32 | 25 Esther 6-10 | 26 Psalms 149-150 | 27 Song of Sol. 7-8 | 28 Revelation 18-22 | 29 Jude 1 |
| 53 Dec 30-31 | 30 Acts 27-28 | 31 Deuteronomy 33-34 | | | | | |

Why should we read / study the Bible?

We should read and study the Bible because it is God's Word to us. The Bible is literally "God-breathed" (2 Timothy 3:16). In other words, it is God's very words to us. There are so many questions that philosophers have asked that God answers for us in Scripture. What is the purpose to life? Where did I come from? Is there life after death? How do I get to heaven? Why is the world full of evil? Why do I struggle to do good? In addition to these "big" questions, the Bible gives much practical advice in areas such as: What do I look for in a mate? How can I have a successful marriage? How can I be a good friend? How can I be a good parent? What is success and how do I achieve it? How can I change? What really matters in life? How can I live so that I do not look back with regret? How can I handle the unfair circumstances and bad events of life victoriously?

We should read and study the Bible because God does not change and because human nature does not change; it is as relevant for us as it was when it was written. While technology changes, our nature and desires do not change. We find, as we read the pages of biblical history, that whether we are talking about one-on-one relationships or whole societies, "there is nothing new under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 1:9). And while mankind as a whole continues to seek love and satisfaction in all of the wrong places, God, our good and gracious Creator, tells us what will bring us lasting joy. His revealed Word, the Bible, is so important that Jesus said of it, "Man does not live on bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). In other words, if we want to live life to the fullest, as God intended, we must listen to and heed God's written Word.

We should read and study the Bible because there is so much false teaching. The Bible gives us the measuring stick by which we can distinguish truth from error. It tells us what God is like. God's Word shows us just how much God loves us, and it is in learning this that we are drawn to love Him in return. The Bible equips us to serve God. It helps us know how to be saved from our sin and its ultimate consequence. Meditating on God's Word and obeying its teachings will bring success in life. God's Word helps us see sin in our lives and helps us get rid of it. It gives us guidance in life and keeps us from wasting years of our lives on that which does not matter and will not last.

The Bible is a book that is not merely for reading. It is a book for studying so that it can be applied. Otherwise, it is like swallowing food and then spitting it back out again, no nutritional value is gained by it. The Bible is God's Word, it truly is the bread of life. We can ignore it, but we do so to our own detriment. It cannot be emphasized strongly enough just how important the Bible is to our lives. Studying the Bible is similar to any other discipline or activity; if we make little effort we receive little in return, but the more we make an effort to really dig into it and make it a part of our lives, the more reward we will gain.

The word of God, as contained in the Bible, is the source from which true believers derive their strength. It commends itself by providing direction, hope, peace, and understanding to all who are spiritually enlightened and apply its precepts in their lives.



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