

# The Whole Bible

A **One-Year** Plan for reading through the Bible chronologically.

#### Notes on the order:

- 1. In the Old Testament,
  - **a.** Each book (or in some instances: each section of a book) is in the order of the place in history it portrays or, with the poetic and prophetic books, in the order of the history in which it was written.
  - **b.** The Psalms are also read chronologically, with each Psalm being placed after the point in Biblical history it was or may have been written. This placement is that the reader can know what each Psalm was referring to (the historical event to which it spoke).
  - **c.** Solomon's writings (Song of Songs, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes) are spread across 1 Kings 1-10, at the likely times during his reign in which he wrote each particular one.
  - **d.** The prophetic books are each inserted throughout 2 Kings at the point in history in which the prophet ministered. For example, the account of Jeroboam II in Northern Israel in 2 Kings 14 is followed by the book of Jonah, as Jonah ministered during Jeroboam II's reign.
  - **e.** The prophetic books of the prophets who ministered after the end of 2 Kings are read in order of their chronology, as well.
- 2. With the **New Testament**, likely writing dates for each New Testament book are given.
  - a. The Gospel of Matthew comes first, as it may have been the earliest Gospel. It gives the sweep of Jesus' life.
  - **b.** Matthew is followed by Acts, whose narrative continues the ministry of Jesus through His apostles.
  - c. The narrative of Acts is interrupted throughout in order to read various epistles whenever the narrative of Acts arrives at a point at which an epistle was written. The chapters of Acts are identified with the historical dates of the events they describe.
  - **d.** Luke, perhaps the second of the Gospels, is read after Acts, and the remainder of the books are then ordered by their likely dates of composition.

### **Layout of the Readings**

The readings divide the whole of the Bible into 365 readings of closely equal length.

The readings are not dated, but are numbered, from 1-365.

### **Reason for the Layout**

Since the readings are numbered, not dated, you can start your reading at any time of the year, not just January 1.

Additionally, the sheets don't have dated readings for this purpose: so that there are no guilt feelings (or any weight) of "getting behind" nor of having to have a double-reading day to "catch up" when you miss a day. If you miss a day, it's probably best just to pick up where you left off, with the next reading only. Otherwise, you may come to hate these sheets and to be discouraged, which is the opposite purpose for which these sheets were created!

## Read the whole Bible in a year, or in two.

If you'd like to read through the whole Bible in a year, read one numbered reading each day.

Want to get through the whole Bible in *two* years? There's another guide for that. You can get that or simply take two days for each reading on this guide. Simple. On the first day of the split reading, mark the date to the left. On the second day, write the date to the right.

Like this:

3/2 Exodus 22-24 3/3

Either way, when you complete a reading, write the date on the sheet next to the reading. That'll give you a good sense of your progress as time rolls on.

And, whether you're working through the Bible in one or two years, either way you'll be blessed, as you have a good bit of Scripture wash over you each day.

Lastly, if you have to split a reading across two days, do it! It's OK! Think long-term: even if it takes you two years to read through the Bible through these sheets, ask, "Where do I 'want to be' in two years? Having read the whole Bible, or not?" One year or two years will most likely come for you. Why not arrive at that time having read the whole Bible?

Now, go to it! Keep reading. Keep progressing. When you miss a day, don't be discouraged; just read on the following day. You'll be really glad you did.

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