

# Read the Bible in a Year Chronologically

## January

I want to congratulate you in undertaking to read your whole Bible this year! It is truly a monumental aspiration. I also want to recognize how, even with the best-laid plans and routines, LIFE can sometimes get in the way of staying on track. So, to begin, I want to offer some tips for success:

- Set aside a good, consistent, 10-15 minute block of time each day to read your Bible
- Don't feel like it has to be a perfect quiet time in order to get your reading done each day, you can even incorporate the readings into your family time, dinner time, or over breakfast.
- LISTENING COUNTS! There are many good Bible apps out there which also give you the option to have the Scriptures read to you. You can get your readings done while driving, cleaning, or cooking. It makes the read-through so easy, you may even find you are listening ahead each day!! (that is ok too!)
- If you know you are going to miss a few days during the month, be preemptive and double-down some days or slowly filter in an extra chapter of reading each day to stay caught-up. (When I read through, my goal is to finish on time at the end of the month – even if half of the month I am not on the right days in the plan!)
- Does reading your Bible make your eyes slam shut or does your mind rabbit trail and get distracted, especially if it is early in the morning? Moment of truth here: about halfway through my read-thru last year, I began listening AND reading along for each day's verses. This helped me stay focused and I absorbed more since I'm usually still waking up as I do my read-through first thing while drinking my morning coffee.
- Download a Bible Tracker (I will share on Instagram which tracker I use). It can propel and encourage you to check-off your progress in an app (and win virtual prizes for hitting different benchmarks!)

**This read-thru is NOT intended to replace a good, deep-dig Bible study.** It is merely meant to help you keep the scope of God's Word regularly planted into your mind, *especially* along with other study plans you may have during the year. Having said that, you CAN turn this read-thru into your Bible Study with a little extra time and work:

- Underline and highlight as you read. Pausing after the day's passages and doing word studies and/or looking into cross references and commentaries to understand more deeply.
- Which passages to dig into will usually boil down to things that are confusing, interesting or repetitive.
- Journal about what you read, recording key passages you studied and what you learned about them.

Early this past year, I invested in a journaling Bible and began making notes in the columns and recording my findings when I dug in. My goal is to slowly create my own 'study Bible' from the research I do so I can use it as a reference in years to come!

If you do choose to turn your read-through into a study, don't get so distracted by the details that you discontinue daily reading – keep going, even if you are still digging in on previous passages!

**As mentioned in the title, this is a Chronological reading plan** meaning, we will be reading chapters in their timeline order. I personally prefer this method because it helps us see how connected all of the Scriptures are, especially in the Old Testament and Gospels. As you read, you will notice some missing chapters, this is one major difference between mine and most read-thru plans: I have made the difficult decision to omit long chapters of genealogy, censuses, temple building details, cleansing and garment procedures of the priests, and long lists of battles where no other details are provided. However, I want to be clear: *ALL OF GOD'S WORD IS OF SUPREME IMPORTANCE...* even the things I omitted. I omitted them for one reason only: conciseness.

This study is intended for women who are often juggling their time, down to the minute, yet still want to confidently accomplish a read-through. With that objective in mind:

- ✓ I wanted a read-through plan which didn't require a half-hour of reading every day, 7 days a week, to stay on task.
- ✓ I wanted a plan that wouldn't be overwhelming but, instead, could be easily done with high success rates each month, all the way until the year's end.
- ✓ I wanted a plan with grace margins; some heavy days, some light days, and every week a day off for rest or catch-up.

To achieve this directive, I had to cull some of the passages and cut straight to the meat. Yet, I DO encourage everyone to find some time to still read or listen to those passages which are left out. We can come to understand quite a bit about the entire scope of the Bible when we pause to see the details, even down to "cubits" measured, metals used, and the people who made the nations. I *will* put an asterisked reference in each list so you can easily see omitted Scriptures in their context and, hopefully, set some extra time aside to listen to or read through those parts on your own.

**As with all things, we will start in the beginning:** Genesis. Actually, we will start briefly with John 1 where we see how Jesus was pre-imminent in all (I have heard it said by scholars that *the Old Testament is Jesus concealed and the New Testament is Jesus revealed* – a fun fact to keep in mind as you read!)

For this month we will cover Genesis and Job – the two earliest books in the Bible and probably two of the hardest to push through at times. Our current culture likes to pull passages from these, and other early Old Testament books, out of context (or in) and use them as an excuse to discredit Christianity – DON'T BE DISCOURAGED. When possible, plan extra time over these first few months to reference some good commentary on the passages you find most difficult. It will be MIND-BLOWING as you see the depth and breadth of what is truly intended through the Old Testament message. Some tips to help:

- Reference Study Bible commentary notes as you read. If you don't have a study Bible, BibleHub.com has a great line-by-line commentary section
- Use the Blue Letter Bible (BLB) app or website under "interlinear" in verse references for word studies. Here you will see the original Hebrew (for OT – Greek for NT) word usage and be able to click and read intended definitions and cultural points.
- Listened to/watch good commentators online. BLB also has some solid audio recordings of commentary on each book of the Bible.
- Read/listen to "*Is God a Moral Monster: Making Sense of the Old Testament God*" by Paul Copan \*\*\* I cannot recommend this book highly enough – it was soooooo good in helping make sense of the difficult texts and situations in the Old Testament. Please, get yourself a copy and spend the next month or two reading/listening through it, you will be glad you did!

**In all of this: REMEMBER WHO THE BIBLE IS ABOUT.** Honestly, the Bible isn't about us, it is about God. As we dig into it, and especially the Old Testament, a lot of people lose interest because they find it 'boring' or 'unrelatable'. This is because they are making it about themselves. However, when we dive into God's Word realizing it is a story about HIM and we have the awesome opportunity to learn more about His Character by reading, suddenly the drive to read changes. We want to know how and why things happen. We want to understand God's heart and intent in each situation – *especially* the hard ones. The more we read and the more we choose to dig, the more we understand the God we serve and His amazing, grace-filled personality – we become more humble and better equipped to understand Truth. (Interestingly, the more we take this approach, the more Scripture *will* begin to become personal)

**So, with all that said, are you ready to get started?**

The next page has a check list of passages to read on a Sunday-Friday schedule for January 2024. Reading should take 10-15 minutes per day and passages are arranged to not only make this goal attainable but also to keep the story line as connected as possible while also staying on schedule. The dates are a suggestion, feel free to use them as such. The ultimate goal is NOT to read every day on-time, rather, it is to have finished the readings by month's end, whether you read 5, 6, or 7 days a week. Modify as needed, I have tried to leave space between days for notations in this regard. I will caution you though, DO keep a regular plan because it is easy to fall behind and then feel like you can't catch-up (and ultimately give up). As you develop a routine and make the intake of God's Word a regular part of your spiritual diet, you will find you are hungry for more!

Also, I've tried to design the checklist in such a way that you can fold the page in half so it may serve as a bookmark in your Bible. You can even use the inside of the fold to jot down prayers or notes throughout the month.

**One final note:** If you decide to share your read-through on social media, be sure to tag me, I would love to see how it is going!

I pray you grow in the knowledge of grace and Truth as you undertake this reading plan ♥

Blessings,

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## January 2024

- ☐ M, January 1 – John 1:1-5, Genesis 1-4\*
- ☐ Tu, January 2 – Genesis 6-9\*
- ☐ W, January 3 – Job 1-3
- ☐ Th, January 4 – Job 4-7
- ☐ F, January 5 – Job 8-10
- ☐ Su, January 7 – Job 11-14
- ☐ M, January 8 – Job 15-17
- ☐ Tu, January 9 – Job 18-21
- ☐ W, January 10 – Job 22-24
- ☐ Th, January 11 – Job 25-27
- ☐ F, January 12 – Job 28-31
- ☐ Su, January 14 – Job 32-34
- ☐ M, January 15 – Job 35-37
- ☐ Tu, January 16 – Job 38-39
- ☐ W, January 17 – Job 40-42
- ☐ Th, January 18 – Genesis 11-14
- ☐ F, January 19 – Genesis 15-18
- ☐ Su, January 21 – Genesis 19-22
- ☐ M, January 22 – Genesis 23-25
- ☐ Tu, January 23 – Genesis 26-28
- ☐ W, January 24 – Genesis 29-31
- ☐ Th, January 25 – Genesis 32-35\*
- ☐ F, January 26 – Genesis 37-39
- ☐ Su, January 28 – Genesis 40-41
- ☐ M, January 29 – Genesis 42-44
- ☐ Tu, January 30 – Genesis 45-47
- ☐ W, January 31 – Genesis 48-50

### \*Bonus Readings:

- ☐ Genesis 5
- ☐ Genesis 10
- ☐ Genesis 36