

# Read the Bible in a Year Chronologically

## February

How did you do in January? ... or... are you just now jumping into our Bible-read-thru plan? If you are on-task, great! Congratulations! If not, or if you are just joining us, don't fret – the fact that you are here is wonderful! Pick-up where we are at, and just start moving forward.

*Last year was the first year I was finally able to complete a Bible read-thru plan consecutively.* I had read back-and-forth across my Bible for years, but never in a concerted manner, chronologically, from beginning-to-end. Yet, here is a moment of truth: I was sooooooooooooooooooooo off-course for the first few months! My reading time was early in the morning, coffee in hand, sleep still in eyes, working through text which, I deemed at the time, contained the 'drier' passages of Scripture. At first, the whole thing felt simply mind-numbing and I nearly gave-up.

How did I catch up?

Regardless of my *opinion* of Scripture, I was determined to stick-to-the-plan (even though life at the time was completely bonkers as well). I decided to start listening as I cleaned the house or drove around town, at least until I was caught-up and on-task. Then, once I was on-par with the reading plan outline, I continued listening as I cleaned and drove, believing I didn't need my Bible in front of me to complete the read-thru task. Surprisingly, as I really began to check into the listening more, I found myself grabbing scrap-paper to jot notes about passages I was hearing from these no-longer-dry, no-longer-mind-numbing verses! Sticking to it, pushing ahead, the Scripture was coming alive! I realized I was onto something. By March, each morning, I sat down with my Bible *AND* the audio and proceeded. It may be early in the morning for me to read long Old Testament passages, but I could certainly hone my focus *and* wake-up with audio assistance.

My focus at the time wasn't studying, it was simply reading (I had other study materials I was working through for classes I was in as well as teaching). Yet, even with this singular aim -- hearing, quick note-jotting, and passage underlining -- reading alone was becoming so powerful! It helped, too, removing a desire to see a lesson for ME in each passage, and rather, focus more on what I could learn about God and his people as I listened/read through the narrative.

I share this story to encourage you – if you are in a season where sitting down to read is just too difficult, *don't give up on the task at hand.* Listen. You will be amazed at how much you are still picking up on, and it is a great way to catch up if you find yourself behind! This tip may be particularly helpful as we head into February's reading plan...

This month we will actually be skipping a lot of chapters as per our designated plans set-down last month (I will include those plan details at the end of this intro so you can re-visit the why as well as the reminder of how I encourage you to still read skipped chapters – they *are* still supremely important). Most of the chapters we skip this month are those wonderful cubits-by-cubits, length-by-length ,etc accounts from the times of building God's temple, the arc, all of the materials for worship and even the long list of ritual/ceremonial motions priests needed to go through. It all may seem tedious, and I do not take the skip lightly because, knowing these details can actually help us understand some of the context and depth to the Gospels later on. If you can, *do read or listen* to these omitted chapters whenever possible. Perhaps a you clean or drive or cook a meal.

With omissions and our trajectory, we will cover and/or touch on FOUR books this month! An amazing feat for the shortest month of the year! We will see the Israelites struggle in and out of Egypt, receive the 10 Commandments (twice!), watch the temple be built and witness victories for Israel. A Psalm is snuck in here, historians believe this to be Moses' Psalm, it will be a beautiful pause in our narrative. Are you ready?

## Read-thru Points to Review:

(If you read these last month, you can skip them now, unless you want a refresher 😊)

In recognizing how, even with the best-laid plans and routines, LIFE can sometimes get in the way of staying on track, here are 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: partway 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 we work through the Old Testament...** Our current culture likes to pull passages from these early books of the Bible, often 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 last page has a check list of passages to read on a Sunday-Friday schedule for the month. 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,

Amanda Jones  
Faithandhomepublishing.com  
(IG) @FaithandHome  
(FB) @faithful.homeschool

## February 2024

- ☐ Th, February 1 – Exodus 1-3
- ☐ F, February 2 – Exodus 4-6
- ☐ Su, February 4 – Exodus 7-10
- ☐ M, February 5 – Exodus 11-13
- ☐ Tu, February 6 – Exodus 14-17
- ☐ W, February 7 – Exodus 18-20\*
- ☐ Th, February 8 – Exodus 24\*, 31-32
- ☐ F, February 9 – Exodus 33-35\*
- ☐ Su, February 11 – Exodus 40\*  
Leviticus 8-9\*
- ☐ M, February 12 – Leviticus 16-19
- ☐ Tu, February 13 – Leviticus 20-22
- ☐ W, February 14 – Leviticus 23-25
- ☐ Th, February 15 – Leviticus 26-27\*  
Numbers 6\*
- ☐ F, February 16 – Numbers 8-10
- ☐ Su, February 18 – Numbers 11-14\*
- ☐ M, February 19 – Numbers 16-17\*,20
- ☐ Tu, February 20 – Numbers 21-23
- ☐ W, February 21 – Numbers 24-25\*, 27\*
- ☐ Th, February 22 – Numbers 31-32\*,35\*
- ☐ F, February 23 – Psalm 90  
Deuteronomy 1-3
- ☐ Su, February 25 – Deuteronomy 4-6
- ☐ M, February 26 – Deuteronomy 7-9
- ☐ Tu, February 27 – Deuteronomy 10-13
- ☐ W, February 28 – Deuteronomy 14-16
- ☐ Th, February 29 – Deuteronomy 17-19

### \*Bonus Readings:

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| ☐ Exodus 21-23    | ☐ Numbers 7      |
| ☐ Exodus 25-30    | ☐ Numbers 15     |
| ☐ Exodus 36-39    | ☐ Numbers 18-19  |
| ☐ Leviticus 1-7   | ☐ Numbers 26     |
| ☐ Leviticus 10-15 | ☐ Numbers 28-30  |
| ☐ Numbers 1-5     | ☐ Numbers 32, 36 |