

DAILY BIBLE READING (April)

By following this suggested schedule, you will be able to read the entire Bible in one year. If you've missed previous months' installments, you may begin with this one and finish at this time next year. Others in the congregation are following the same schedule.

1 SAMUEL (continued)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Apr 1	1 Sam 13-15	Saul falls into disfavor quickly: with Samuel (13:13), with the Israelites (14:45), and with God (14:11). In spite of all the ceremonial regulations, pay special attention to 15:22. <i>Your Comments & Questions:</i>
Apr 2	1 Sam 16-18	David is chosen as Saul's successor. He doesn't win his battle with Goliath by sword or spear (17:47). Why does Saul hate David? <i>Your Comments & Questions:</i>
Apr 3	1 Sam 19-21	David is on the run. It's during these perilous experiences that some of the most beautiful Psalms of David came. Traditionally, Psalm 59 is ascribed to the event of 19:10 and Psalm 34 to 21:10. Do these incidents help you understand the Psalms better? <i>Your Comments & Questions:</i>
Apr 4	1 Sam 22-24	More experiences which make David learn that only the Lord is his rock and fortress. Note the apparent repentance of 24:16-22; it won't last long! <i>Your Comments & Questions:</i>
Apr 5	1 Sam 25-27	In spite of David's tremendous difficulties with Saul, note his continued respect for the Lord's anointed (26:11). Even the Philistines, enemies of God's people, can be used for good.
Apr 6	1 Sam 28-31	The end of Saul, a ruler who displeased God, is a horrible story. But by God's design, Saul's successor David will reign over Israel's "golden age." <i>Comments & Questions:</i>

2 Samuel

2 Samuel is the history of David's reign. Many of its passages are parallel to those of 1 Chronicles, which also limits itself to the Davidic kingdom. In this book we'll see David as he really is: his strengths and weaknesses, his faith and his sins, his zeal and his fear. He is a man who can only find the strength to go on because of the assurance of God's continued forgiveness and love.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Apr 7	2 Sam 1-3	In spite of Saul's death, his followers still aren't ready to acknowledge David as the new king. There are right and wrong ways to transfer power, as this section illustrates. Both Saul's admirers and David's supporters make the mistake of putting their human leaders ahead of God in their eager devotion. <i>Your Comments & Questions:</i>
Apr 8	2 Sam 4-6	We begin to see why Samuel objected to a king over the Israelites. Political intrigues can become all too "human." When the people finally give up human politics and acknowledge David as the ruler anointed by God, a whole new era begins. <i>Your Comments & Questions:</i>
Apr 9	2 Sam 7-9	David wants to build a house for God. But God changes the conversation and assures him that he has made a lasting "house" for David. Chapter 8 is a summary of David's military achievements in the North and South. <i>Comments:</i>
Apr 10	2 Sam 10-12	Beginning with chapter 10 we have what is called the "court history" of David. The familiar incident of 11 marks the beginning of the kingdom's downfall. Nathan, like any good prophet, is sent to call David to account. The prophet's desired goal is always repentance. <i>Comments:</i>
Apr 11	2 Sam 13-15	In future generations, the king's oldest son will be his successor. But with so many wives and so many sons the line of succession among David's sons was fuzzy. Hence Absalom's conspiracy (a judgment on polygamy?).
Apr 12	2 Sam 16-18	More of the same, with a bad conclusion. <i>Comments:</i>
Apr 13	2 Sam 19-21	Mere victory is not enough if it lacks justice. But God is just (21). <i>Comments & Questions:</i>
Apr 14	2 Sam 22-24	Chapter 22 is actually Psalm 18. A numbering of the people for the purpose of determining military strength (as though it lay in numbers) was a sin. Therefore, the plague.

1 KINGS

Only two generations of a stable monarchy for the Israelites occur under David and Solomon. After them, the kingdom is divided into the Northern Kingdom (the Ten Tribes of Israel) and the Southern Kingdom (Judah, of which Jerusalem is the capital). The histories of both kingdoms are recounted in Kings and Chronicles. There is a slight difference. The two books of Kings seem particularly concerned with the Northern Kingdom, which went from bad to worse and was finally lost all together in 722 BC when they were defeated by the Assyrians. The two books of Chronicles are more concerned with the Southern Kingdom, Judah. Judah was ruled by both good and bad kings in a straight line of succession from David. You may want to ask the pastor for a chart of both kingdoms.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Apr 15	1 Kings 1-3	David dies and his son, Solomon (by Bathsheba) becomes king. Note the regal significance of the mule in 1:38 (think Palm Sunday!). The advice of 2:1-4 couldn't be better. But Solomon already breaks the commandments in 3:1-3.
Apr 16	1 Kings 4-6	God's promise to Abraham has been fulfilled (4:20). In celebration of the peace given to Israel, Solomon builds the famous Temple. <i>Comments & Questions:</i>
Apr 17	1 Kings 7-9	Chapter 8 is one of those beautiful chapters we came to enjoy in the Pentateuch (first five books of the Bible). In it Solomon gives an appropriate description of the purpose of the Temple. <i>Your Comments & Questions:</i>
Apr 18	1 Kings 10-12	Solomon did a very unwise thing despite his wisdom. He married foreign princesses to form foreign alliances. He disobeyed God and the outcome is told in chapter 11. The kingdom is divided in 12. Nevertheless, in his grace, God will preserve David's and Solomon's line.
Apr 19	1 Kings 13-15	In 12:28-33 we've already seen what kind of government the Northern Kingdom (Israel) will have. But 14:24 shows us that the Southern Kingdom (Judah) will also go astray.
Apr 20	1 Kings 16-18	Use a chart to keep the kings and their kingdoms in order. The remainder of 1 Kings is about one particular king, Ahab, and the prophet, Elijah, who was sent to him.
Apr 21	1 Kings 19-22	In chapter 19 we get an insight into Elijah's character. What is a prophet? What is his task? What gives him confidence?

2 KINGS

This book records a very sad history (almost the opposite of Exodus). After tracing Ahab's descendents, it give quick treatment to all the kings of the two kingdoms and then, concisely and factually, presents the accounts of the final destruction of both. The Hebrews, guided so many years by God, have forsaken the covenant by following wicked leaders and false gods. They ignore the warnings of the prophets God sends. God uses foreign nations to level his judgment upon them. Both are finally taken into exile, the Northern in 722 BC and the Southern in 586 BC. The former is never heard from again.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Apr 22	2 Kings 1-3	The prophets were not to be fooled with! Neither was the God they represented. <i>Your Comments & Questions:</i>
Apr 23	2 Kings 4-6	More accounts of the prophets. Because they represented God, they were blessed with God-like qualities.
Apr 24	2 Kings 7-9	God can even use the wicked for his purposes. Jehu is chosen by God. The promise to Judah is recounted (8:19).
Apr 25	2 Kings 10-12	Note the formula: "And ___did what was evil/not evil in the sight of the Lord." This is <i>sacred</i> history, in which a king is remembered not for his accomplishments, but for what he was in the sight of God. <i>Your Comments & Questions:</i>
Apr 26	2 Kings 13-15	God shows tremendous patience because of his promises (13:23). The Northern capital was in Samaria.
Apr 27	2 Kings 16-18	Chapter 17 tells it all. The final verdict of God upon the Northern Kingdom. The people are taken into captivity by the Assyrians and are never heard from again. The Southern will continue another 136 years.
Apr 28	2 Kings 19-21	First glimpse of the prophet Isaiah. God gives his final verdict against Judah and its capital, Jerusalem (21:10-15).
Apr 29	2 Kings 22-25	The Law is found during temple repairs! The people are filled with guilt about how far their nation has strayed from God. Reforms are made, but the South also falls to the Babylonians and goes into captivity. But they will return!

We're meeting tonight at the church at 7:30 to discuss what we've read so far with others following the schedule! Join us!

Apr 30 *free day – get caught up!*