

DAILY BIBLE READING

By following this suggested schedule you will be able to read the entire Bible in one year. Set aside a special time each day for your reading and you will have no difficulty. The schedule will require some kind of routine, self-discipline, but only about 10 minutes each day. Others in the congregation will also be following this schedule. Occasionally we will all get together to discuss our progress, questions and discoveries. At the end of each month you may obtain the coming month's schedule in the church narthex. If you would like other resources, commentaries, etc., speak with the pastor.

As we begin each separate book of the Bible, a short introduction will be provided.

Questions and comments for each day's reading are very brief and are only meant to help you in your reading. You may jot down your own comments or questions.

Stick with it! It should be a blessed year! Let's begin!

GENESIS

The word "genesis" means "beginnings". Tradition says it was written by Moses. But the earliest record of human writing dates from about 3000 BC, so much of Genesis must have been passed down orally from one generation to another before ever committed to written form. The book records not only the beginning of creation but also the beginning of the Hebrew people, the descendants of Abraham.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Jan 1	Gen. 1-3 (chapters)	Are Gen. 1 & 2 two separate accounts of creation? Notice that the author doesn't begin by proving God's existence: God is simply there at the beginning. Was Christ involved in creation (check John 1)? Is Gen. 3:15 the first prophecy of Christ? <i>Your comments & questions:</i>
Jan 2	Gen. 4-6	In spite of sin, God shows mercy. How is this true in the case of Cain? Will it also be true at the Flood? <i>Your comments & questions:</i>
Jan 3	Gen. 7-9	How does God show his love for Noah? God establishes a covenant. Remember the curse on Canaan.
Jan 4	Gen. 10-12	The Canaanites inhabit Palestine. Later the Hebrews will fight with them over the Promised Land. After scattering people from the tower of Babel, God again chooses one man, Abram, to bless and build up as a faithful follower.
Jan 5	Gen. 13-15	What was God's promise to Abram? Was Abram a perfectly righteous man?

Jan 6	Gen. 16-18	In the incident with Hagar, do Abram & Sarah trust God's promise? Does God bless them anyway? What is the covenant?
Jan 7	Gen. 19-21	Does Sodom deserve its punishment? The illegitimate son Moab later becomes the father of a nation opposed to the Hebrews. Abraham still shows weakness of faith (20).
Jan 8	Gen. 22-24	How do Abraham and Isaac pre-figure God and His Son? Note God's mercy. He always provides the sacrifice. Abraham finds a God-fearing wife for his son.
Jan 9	Gen. 25-27	The history of Christ's ancestors, the people of God, is not a glowing one. Not the deception and treachery of the Jacob/Esau story. Yet God turns even evil to serve his good purposes.
Jan 10	Gen. 28-30	Jacob must also find a wife. The covenant promise first made to Abraham is now renewed with his grandson Jacob. Twelve sons (after whom the Twelve Tribes of Israel are named) are born to Jacob.
Jan 11	Gen. 31-33	Jacob is blessed despite his sin. Note his repentance (32:10). What is Jacob's new name (32:28)?
Jan 12	Gen. 34-36	More skeletons in the closet of Israel's history. Yet God continues to love and bless his chosen people. Esau's descendents (the Edomites) will be enemies in the future.
Jan 13	Gen. 37-39	People devise evil. . . .
Jan 14	Gen. 40-42	. . . but God turns it for good.
Jan 15	Gen. 43-46	A happy reunion.
Jan 16	Gen. 47-50	God's people take up residence in a foreign land. Will the Covenant be forgotten by them (or by God)?

EXODUS

This second book of the Old Testament is centered about the single, most important event in the Hebrews' history: God's act of deliverance from oppression in Egypt. Over 400 years have passed since we left Joseph and his brothers in Egypt at the end of Genesis. The Israelites who went there to escape famine have become slaves. What has become of God's promises? Will he allow the people whom he's promised to bless to languish and die in a foreign land? Exodus is a hallmark of God's "saving history".

<u>Date</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Jan 17	Ex. 1-3	Moses is saved with God's help and groomed for his future leadership. Moses feels unfit for the task, but God's promise is "I will be with you." God reveals himself as "YAHWEH". <i>Your comments & questions:</i>
Jan 18	Ex. 4-6	Note Moses' hesitancy . . . and the Lord's resoluteness! God reminds Moses of the covenant. <i>Your comments & questions:</i>
Jan 19	Ex.7-9	The ten plagues. Note Pharaoh's deception, Moses' timidity and God's steadfastness. <i>Your comments & questions:</i>
Jan 20	Ex.10-12	Why does God harden Pharaoh's heart? Is it perhaps to show His own strength? Chapter 12 tells of Passover. It was a Passover meal which Christ used to institute the Lord's Supper. What are the similarities and differences?
Jan 21	Ex. 13. -15	In what way is the Christian a participant in the "new Exodus"? How does God show the Israelites their complete dependence upon him? <i>Your comments & questions:</i>
Jan 22	Ex. 16-18	Note the people's lack of faith, but God's care.
Jan 23	Ex. 19-21	The great Covenant is made. The commandments are a sign of of God's love and a symbol of his people's uniqueness.

- Jan 24 Ex. 22-24 The people whom God took out of Egypt had been slaves. They really were "children" (i.e. illiterate, foolish). In what ways are God's laws for them a sign of his fatherly care and concern?

- Jan 25 Ex. 25-27 Note the meticulous care given to the tabernacle and its furnishings. This section may be tough going, but in reading it you can develop an appreciation for the painstaking attention to detail the Hebrews had for their worship and sacred customs. Do we have the same reverence?

- Jan 26 Ex. 28-30 Note the precision workmanship in the priests' vestments. Does it have meaning? Do pastors' vestments today mean something? Offerings are prescribed. God himself provides the means for forgiveness, reconciliation and atonement. His mercy is always available to his people! *Your comments and questions:*

- Jan 27 Ex. 31-33 God not only give the architectural plans for his tabernacle, he gives people the talent and ability to build it. Note the people's extreme apostasy in chapter 32. They will all die before reaching the new land. Yet God forgives and gives Moses greater courage for leading this rebellious people. *Your comments & questions:*

- Jan 28 Ex.34-36 God gives the Ten Commandments again. The people begin work on the tabernacle and its accessories.

- Jan 29 Ex.37-40 Consider the reverence the Israelites must have had for their place of worship and for the Lord they worshipped!

- Jan 30 & 31 Take a well-deserved Sabbath rest! Or use the time to get caught up. But don't get out of your routine.

You may pick up a copy of next month's installment in the narthex. By the way, in February we will read the Gospel of Mark (so we're not taking all the books of the Bible in order).

Let the pastor know if you've managed to make it through the first month of reading. He wants to know!