# Shawn Boonstra



Getting More from Your Bible



by Shawn Boonstra

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and Pacific Press Publishing Association

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For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path. Psalm 119:105



The Bible is undeniably a most remarkable book. It has outlived all of its critics, survived centuries of prohibition and has changed countless lives for the better. It has a power that no other book has. It has made thieves honest, cheaters faithful and drunkards sober. It has transformed warring savages into upright and peace-loving people.

No wonder it continues to be the best seller of all time, in spite of numerous authorities and governments who have tried to ban it and the godless people who have burned and destroyed it. Many Christians have given their lives to protect and preserve it.

Why has this ancient book had such an impact on the world? Because the Bible is the very Word of God. Over a period of hundreds of years God chose faithful people from a variety of backgrounds to write what He wanted to communicate to this world through a process called inspiration. Peter wrote in 2 Peter 1:20-21, "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke

#### as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."

Today we read God's Word in our own language—even though it was originally written in Hebrew or Greek, it has been carefully translated from the original languages into ours.

Though the Bible was written hundreds of years ago, the message it expresses is powerful today because it is the Word of God. Paul wrote, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). This special book provides encouragement, hope, guidance, inspiration and comfort as well as solutions to life's most perplexing problems.

While it may look to the casual observer like one book, it is really 66 books—39 of which are called the Old Testament, and 27 called the New Testament. Because 44 authors wrote these books, each one is unique. There are exciting adventures, beautiful poetry, inspiring stories, and wise counsel and instruction. What is most remarkable is that each author and each book expresses God's love for us and His plan to save us from our sins.

In studying this Book of books you will find intriguing lessons in how God worked in the lives of people long ago, from which you will learn important truths and gain the strength to apply them in your life. As you read and study your Bible, never forget that the Author, God Himself, is speaking to you, asking you to follow Him. James 1:22-25 entreats, "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does."

Chances are that you have one or more Bibles in your home. How often do you pick one up to read? This little book will help you maximize the time you spend reading, searching and meditating on God's Word. These principles will help make the Bible come alive for you!

E Chapter One 

### Mary Jones and the Bible

Just imagine, before 1907 nobody had ever vacuumed a carpet, because the vacuum cleaner had not been invented yet. Before 1914 nobody had ever run a red light, because there was no such thing as a traffic light. Before 1914 no one had ever snagged a zipper. Before 1920 nobody had come up with a Band-Aid solution to a problem, because there was no such thing as a Band-Aid.

Before 1921 no one had ever been subjected to a lie detector test. In 1928 the black and white picture tube was invented. The first color tube did not appear until 1940. Before 1941 nobody had ever used an aerosol can. Before 1953, no one had ever received a kidney transplant. Nonstick cooking first appeared in kitchens in 1954, and no one ever dreamed of laser eye surgery before 1962.

The 1970s brought us floppy disks, laser printers, testtube babies and VHS players.

The 1980s brought us cell phones, computer animation, space shuttles, soymilk and GPS systems. The 1990s introduced us to the World Wide Web, gene mapping, antimatter and cloning.

The 20th century was a whirlwind of scientific discovery. Technologically speaking, it may go down as the most significant period of earth's history. The face of human existence was radically altered. In fact, it was so revolutionary that some Bible scholars see it as a fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

Let me show you what I mean. Daniel the prophet lived more than 2,400 years ago. He was a young, aristocratic Jew who had been taken captive by the Babylonians. He lived in the court of the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar as one of his special trainee captives. During his lifetime as a royal prisoner, God repeatedly gave him visions of the future of our planet.

These visions spelled out the world's history from Daniel's day right down to the close of time. They are literally a detailed timeline between Daniel's time and the day Jesus comes back for us. To date, not one detail in any of Daniel's prophecies has been wrong, and since most of what he predicted has already happened, millions of people have come to trust what Daniel says about our future.

But what does the book of Daniel have to do with the inventions of the 20th century? Quite a lot, some people think. There is an interesting verse near the end of the book that has arrested the attention of many Bible scholars in recent years: "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." (Daniel 12:4)

The Book of Daniel plainly predicts that just before the end of time, there will be a dramatic increase in knowledge. Some Bible students believe this is a reference to the sensa-

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tional explosion of technology over the last 100 years or so. I won't dispute it entirely—it may indirectly refer to that—but I don't believe that is truly what the angel had in mind.

Let me explain. If you read the book of Daniel closely, you will find all through it – (in the ninth chapter in particular) an intense desire on Daniel's part to *understand* the things he is seeing and hearing. Then at the end of the book, the angel tells Daniel to shut up the words and seal the book.

In other words, it was not time to understand everything yet. There would come a time at the end of the world, near the very close of history, when knowledge would increase, but in Daniel's day, the prophecies were sealed. Is it possible that the angel was referring to technology and science? I suppose it is, but I believe that the angel was primarily referring to a time—in the future—when there would be a dramatic increase in Bible knowledge.

He was referring to a time in the future when the prophecies of Daniel would be understood, because most of what had been prophesied would have already happened. You see, Bible prophecy is not so much about understanding every detail about the future as it is about understanding that God has always been at work in history.

Bible prophecy is meant to build our faith as we look back and see its fulfillment through history. Jesus taught this principle when He said: "And now I have told you before it comes to pass, that when it does come to pass, ye may believe" (John 14:29).

In other words, hindsight is 20/20. Bible prophecy does tell us about what is going to happen in the future,

but our clearest understanding comes after it has been fulfilled. The angel told Daniel that a time was coming (at the end of history) when Bible knowledge would increase at an explosive rate. Then the prophecies would finally be fully understood.

I believe that the prophecy of Daniel 12:4 *is* being fulfilled in our day and age. Bible knowledge and the study of Bible prophecy have metaphorically exploded. And while few people realize it, we might have a little girl to thank at least in part.

Throughout the period of history known as the Dark Ages, which lasted for more than 1,200 years, few people had access to a Bible. Even if they could get their hands on one, it would have done them little good, because very few people could actually read. Perhaps "Dark Ages" is a very fitting name for this time period. People were literally in the dark when it came to what this important Book said.

But then something happened. The Dark Ages ended, because the hands of God's great prophetic clock were steadily ticking their way toward the "time of the end," when knowledge would increase dramatically.

The period of history *following* the Dark Ages has come to be known by some historians as the Great Awakening. There was a large collection of independent movements around the world that began to promote Bible study and missionary work. The gospel was carried to the whole world in much the way that it had been in the days of the early disciples.

It was the beginning of the time of the end. Jesus said in Matthew 24:14 that "...this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then

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shall the end come."

Beginning in the early 1800s, the light of God's Word swept across the face of the planet like a wildfire. One topic of particular interest to many Bible students was Bible prophecy. The time had come to understand what Daniel had written.

But in order for people to understand Daniel and the rest of the Bible, they had to have a Bible in their hands, and very few people did. In fact, at the close of the Dark Ages, the Bible was only available in a total of 67 out of an estimated 7,000 world languages.

In other words, it was available to less than one percent of the language groups on earth. To make matters worse, even if the Bible *was* available in your language, chances were that it was too expensive to buy one for yourself.

That was all about to change, and God used a faithful little girl—born in the Welsh countryside in 1784—to make the Bible available to the entire world. Her name was Mary, and more than anything in the world, she wanted to learn how to read. Why? So she could read the Bible for herself. Like most other people, she only had access to the Bible when she heard it read at church or prayer meeting.

She wanted more. She wanted to read it herself, but there were no schools nearby to teach her how to read.

Finally, when Mary was 10 years old, her father came home one night with a big smile on his face. "Mary," he said, "a school has opened about an hour from here, and you can start attending next week." It was an answer to prayer. Mary wanted to read so badly that she didn't mind walking an hour to school. She quickly rose to the top of her class. But learning to read was only half of Mary's dream. She still did not have a Bible of her own. A kind neighbor with a Bible in the Welsh language allowed her to come over every weekend and spend time reading. She lived two miles from Mary's house.

Every weekend Mary went and was amazed as she read the stories of Jesus. She had heard some of them in church, but how much better for her to read it for herself. The Bible came alive for her, and her weekend visits soon were not enough.

In fact, each hour spent in her neighbor's Bible only fueled the fire in little Mary's heart—to own a Bible of her own in the Welsh language. So even though they were prohibitively expensive, she began to save her pennies.

She did odd jobs around the village for meager amounts of money—a penny here and there. She began sewing for people, raising chickens, selling their eggs, gathering firewood, helping local mothers with their chores and watching over their children. There was almost no job that Mary would not do in order to save money for her Bible.

For six long years, Mary saved her pennies, and it wasn't easy. At one point, her father became so ill that he couldn't work anymore. Some of Mary's Bible money had to go toward feeding the family. Owning a Bible seemed like the impossible dream, but after six years, she finally had enough money to purchase a Bible of her own.

However, that only introduced a new problem. Where would she get a Bible in the Welsh language? No one in her village had one for sale. In fact, hardly anybody had one at all. Welsh Bibles were exceptionally scarce.

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Then Mary noticed that her new schoolteacher had one. She asked him where he got it, and he told her of a minister by the name of Thomas Charles in the village of Bala—25 miles away—who had Welsh Bibles for sale.

One can only begin to imagine Mary's excitement. Even though she wasn't quite 16 years old, she set out on foot and walked all day over very rough terrain to get to Bala. It was a trip that would be immortalized in history, and—at least in part—I believe it was also a fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

When Mary got to Bala late in the evening, she knocked on the door of a local minister, who took her in for the night. In the morning, he took her to see Pastor Charles, who lived near by.

Thomas Charles welcomed Mary and listened patiently as she told her story. "I love the Bible," she said. "I have loved it ever since I was a little girl and I heard it being read at a meeting I attended with my father and mother. Then the school opened when I was ten, and I learned to read. Now I want a Bible of my own."

Pastor Charles could hardly believe his ears. "And you have come 25 miles on foot to buy one?" he asked.

"Yes," she said, "and I have the money to pay for it right here."

"How in the world did you get the money for a Bible? You said that your parents were weavers, and I don't suppose that they're very rich."

"Oh," she said, "I have worked and saved for six years, sir. I did mending for neighbors. I gathered firewood, and raised chickens—just about everything you can think of, and now I finally have enough."

The money jingled softly in the little purse clutched tightly in her hands. Thomas Charles looked over at the other pastor and said, "Mr. Edwards, isn't this sad? To see a young girl, so brave, so intelligent and so consistent a Christian, coming all this long 25 miles for a Bible, and I have none to spare—not even one. There is no hope of getting one, either, as the Religious Tract Society has refused to print more for Wales!"

"Do you mean to say that you don't even have *one* for this poor girl?" the pastor asked.

"Not even one," he said. "There are two or three Bibles here that have already been promised to other people. I have nothing left."

The words fell like hammer blows on Mary's ears. She was devastated, and she began to weep uncontrollably, because she would be going home without a Bible after so many years of waiting. The chair shook under her sobs.

Thomas Charles was suddenly moved with compassion. He got up out of his chair and laid his hand on Mary's head. "Mary," he said, "You *will* have a Bible, no matter what. One of these Bibles is going to a man who can also read English, so I will give you his."

He went to the bookcase and got a Welsh Bible for Mary, and an excited teenage girl walked 25 miles home that day—to begin reading her very own Bible.

After she left, Pastor Charles started to dream. Mary's story so deeply touched him that he went to a meeting of the Religious Tract Society in 1802, and told them what had happened. When he was finished, he asked the mem-

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bers to consider forming a new society dedicated to printing and distributing Bibles in the Welsh language.

They liked the idea. A Baptist minister by the name of Joseph Hughes was so touched by Mary's story that he stood up and said, "Mr. Charles, your appeal was very moving. The story of that young girl is heart-rending and her story is the story of the whole world. Surely a society could be formed for this purpose, but if we start one for Wales, why not for Great Britain? And why not for the world?"

That December day, the British and Foreign Bible Society was born. It held its first meeting on March 7, 1804, and  $\pounds700$  was raised to begin the printing and distribution of Bibles all around the world.

In God's version of history, it was a profound moment. The Great Awakening had its catalyst, and the way was opened for millions of Christians to understand the wonderful prophecies of the Bible. The moment had come for knowledge to increase. A little girl with unshakable faith paved the way for the whole world to read what Daniel wrote.

Remember, when Mary made her famous walk to Bala in 1800, the Bible was only available in 67 languages. By the year 1900 it was available in 524 languages, and the British and Foreign Bible Society had distributed almost 204 million copies.

Mary would never have dreamed that she would play such an important role in God's plans for planet earth. She was a simple country girl used by God to put the Bible into the hands of millions of people. Thanks to her, countless thousands of people will be in heaven—maybe even you.

The very first foreign language Bible that the new So-

ciety printed was for Canada. It was in the Mohawk language, translated by Mohawk scholars on the Six Nations reserve in Southern Ontario. During the American Revolution, Chief Joseph Brant (as he was known to the British Empire), took the side of the loyalists who ended up in Canada. When the war was over, the Mohawks had lost everything, including their homes.

Governor General Frederick Haldimand granted Joseph Brant and the Mohawks a 675,000-acre tract of land near modern day Brantford, Ontario. Joseph Brant, at the request of King George III, built a church in 1785, which to this day is still the oldest Protestant church in Canada and the only royal chapel outside of Britain. When it was built, Chief Brant decided that the most important thing he could do for his people was to provide the Bible in their own language. He translated the gospel of Mark into Mohawk.

In later years, the Bible Society in Britain recognized the need for more of the Bible to be distributed among the Mohawks, and so Chief John Norton (his English name) was asked to translate the gospel of John. That translation, completed in 1804, became the first foreign language Bible the society ever published.

Enthusiasm for distributing Bibles quickly spread from the Six Nations reserve all across Canada, and by 1807, local Bible societies began to appear. Many years later, in 1904, this loose collection of Bible Societies united to form the Canadian Bible Society, which is with us to this day. Bible societies were formed in America and around the world.

Chances are that you have a Bible in your home that was printed by a Bible society. I have several, and I have a little girl in Wales to thank. She had such a love for God's word that she dedicated her every waking moment to securing one for herself.

If God could use a humble country girl to start the fulfillment of a 2,500-year-old prophecy, I wonder what He might be waiting to do with you. The work of spreading the message of this Book is not finished yet. We're almost there—but not quite.

God is waiting for more people like Mary to step out in simple faith and devote themselves to Him. He is waiting for you. Just imagine what could happen!

Maybe you have never read or studied the Bible. Maybe you haven't been studying it like you should. Maybe you've never had a chance to see what a little Welsh girl found in this book more than 200 years ago. Read on, because this little book will help you find out what God has planned for you!

Chapter Two 

### Bible Study Basics

It's 5 a.m. and the alarm clock rings. It's time for your morning devotions. You wipe the sleep out of your eyes, reach for the Bible on your nightstand and peruse a couple of verses from the book of Psalms.

You got to bed a little late last night and it's kind of hard to focus on what you're reading. Five minutes after you have finished, you can hardly remember what you read. Have you ever felt you are not getting enough out of your devotional life?

Maybe you have all the modern study tools, even a computer Bible, yet when you are finished you can't remember what you just read. You are not getting anything out of it. What can you do to have a better time in the Bible?

Let me suggest a few things you can do to solve this dilemma!

Let the Holy Spirit Be Your Guide. The Bible itself teaches that the Spirit of God is our Guide when we study it. The same Holy Spirit that initiated the writing of the Bible, the same Holy Spirit that impressed the hearts and

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minds of the disciples when they wrote, will impress us as we study! In John 16:13 we read, *"However when he the spirit* of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth..."

The Bible is a divine book. It is not to be approached like any other book. As we open the pages of the Bible, we need to pray, "Dear Lord, open my mind to see what you have in your word." We need to seek God's guidance first, then read the Bible.

There is an amazing story that Jesus tells regarding the Pharisees in Matthew 11:25 where He says, "...I have not revealed these things to the wise and prudent, but unto babes."

If you approach the Bible to prove your own ideas or to prove other people wrong, or if you approach the Bible from the perspective of arguing, then you will misunderstand the purpose of God's Word. Before you begin reading the Bible, pray for God's guidance.

**Come to the Bible with the Spirit of a Child.** It is important to have an open mind like a child when reading the Bible. Be willing to say, "Lord, I'm coming to you today, not to superimpose my will on the text, but I'm coming to you so you can speak to me through your Word." You need to come to the Bible to learn what God wants you to learn.

**Remember the fence post principle.** It is very important that we not be tempted to take one text and make a doctrine out of it. Let's suppose that I am a farmer building a fence. On the day I start the work you come to visit me in the field where I have put in only one post. I look at that post and ask, "Which way is the fence running?" By seeing only the first post I don't know which way the fence will go! I might assume it will go off diagonally to my right, while you imagine it will be go straight to the left.

What happens when I put in the second post? With two points I can draw a line between them. When the third post goes in there is no question as to where the fence is going.

Likewise, when you study the Bible, you line up each text as a fence post. For example, if I wish to study about heaven, I don't want to read only one passage on heaven, I want to read 50. If I am studying about death, I don't want to read just one passage, but all the passages about death. This is the way the Bible itself says it should be studied.

In Isaiah 28:9-10 we read, "Whom shall he teach knowledge and whom shall he make to understand doctrine. Them that are weaned from the milk and drawn from the breast. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little and there a little."

God wants to teach you something deep and here is how He does it. Precept, that is principle, must be upon principle. Line must be upon line, here a little and there a little.

It is much like making a puzzle. Suppose you are putting together this puzzle — a scene of a boy walking down a dirt road in the country with a fishing pole over his shoulder. If you were to start the puzzle with a piece that has his foot on it, and right next to that piece goes a piece with a rattlesnake on it, you could get the impression that the snake bit the boy and the boy died. But you are only looking at two small pieces. As you put more pieces in place, you begin to see that right behind the snake is the boy's father, and he is killing the snake. The whole point of the picture is not the snake biting the boy, but his father protecting him.

In the same way, when you read the Bible, you take as

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many texts as you can on the subject to see the whole picture!

Use the right tools in the right way. As a preacher I have to admit that sometimes I can't remember where a particular passage is found! That is where a concordance comes in handy. There are great concordances available, such as *Young's Analytical Concordance of the Bible* and *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* as well as concordances in the back of many Bibles. These are very useful Bible study tools.

The concordance in the back of your Bible is often very limited. There will be a few texts on each topic. *Young's Concordance* and *Strong's Concordance* are exhaustive concordances. In other words, they will take every instance of a word in the Bible and list it for you. For example, it lists each time the word "Jesus" is mentioned. Every serious Bible student should have at least one good concordance in his or her library.

There are also many commentaries and Bible study aids written by various authors. Some of them are excellent explanations of Bible concepts and principles. But what if you are reading one that is seemingly very good and you notice something that is not in harmony with what the Scripture teaches? The Bible gives us some counsel for this kind of situation in Proverbs 19:27, *"Cease listening to instruction, my son, that will lead you to stray from the words of knowledge."* 

It is very clear in this passage what we should do when we find instruction that leads us away from the true knowledge of God's Word. We need to avoid following instruction that is not in harmony with Scripture.

Understanding God's Word is not merely a matter of the mind, it is also a matter of the heart. Some of the most brilliant people in the world can be confused by the Bible. In Jesus' day the scribes and Pharisees spent hours every day pouring over Scripture, but they were confused by it. They did not even recognize that Jesus was going to come, and the Messiah was right there before them. And so they rejected the Him!

The Bible says in John 7:17 that understanding truth is as much a matter of the heart as it is of the mind. "*If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine whether it be of God or whether I speak of myself.*" When I approach the Bible, I come with a prayerful heart saying to the Lord, "Please guide me through your Holy Spirit as I study. I am willing to do whatever You want me to do. I will look at all of the scriptural texts on a topic and put them together with Your help. I will not listen to knowledge that will lead me away from Your Book. I come with a willingness to do what You want me to do."

Okay, you have done all that. How are you going to get the most mileage from your study? You do it by following the advice found in John 6:63, "... the words that I speak to you, they are spirit and they are life." As you read God's Word, your mind is changed. The same Holy Spirit that inspired the Bible inspires you. The same God who at creation brought life into the world through His spoken Word, brings life into your heart through His written Word.

My friend, Pastor Mark Finely, uses a simple little acrostic to summarize how we can put vigor and vitality into our Bible Study. He calls it **V-I-M**.

The "**V**" stands for *visualization*. Here is an example: As I read the story of Jesus crossing the Sea of Galilee in a boat, I hear the wind escalating, I see the boat going up and down. The thunder is crashing, the lightning is flashing and the waves are filling the boat. I visualize the darkness of the night. It is as if somebody threw a cosmic switch and turned off the stars—the clouds cover the moon. It is dark and I feel that darkness. I watch the whitecaps as they crash over the boat. I see the disciples trembling in fear. I watch the wind blowing their hair. I see the rain hitting their faces. With those disciples, I visualize what they are experiencing.

The "I" is *identification*. What would it have been like if I were Peter, James or John? I feel the chill of the wind. I hear the snap of the sails. I listen to the roll of the thunder. I shiver as the waves come over the boat. I see the boat filling up. I identify with what it must have been like standing there in water up to my ankles and I look away to see Jesus sleeping. So I scream out with those disciples, "Lord, this boat is going down. Don't you care, Lord? Where in the world are you? We're perishing!"

Then I meditate on what this means to me. In my life, many times the sea is raging. It seems like the lights are turned off. It seems as if my little boat is filled with water and it's going down. And it seems like I cry out with those disciples, "Lord, don't you care that we're perishing?"

The "**M**" represents *meditation*. As I see Jesus stand, lift His hands and say, "Peace be still," I think about those disciples and how peace flooded into their hearts as the sea became calm. As the stars twinkle in the heavens above, and as the moon now reflects over the gentle waves, I see a confident twinkle in Peter's eye and the smile of peace on his face. As I meditate on that, the storms of my life don't look so large and Jesus says to me, "Peace, be still." I apply it to my life.

#### Where Should I Start?

Now I have everything in place. I have my Bible, I have an attitude of prayer, I know about "V-I-M," and I have some great study tools. But where do I start reading the Bible? At the beginning of the Old Testament in Genesis, or maybe in the New Testament?

There are people who start with Genesis and read all the way through Revelation, and I applaud them for doing that. When you read the Bible through this way you get a sense of the whole Bible story and history. There are many others who decide to read the whole Bible in one year. They start at Genesis but by the time they get to Leviticus or Numbers (some books of the Bible that are tougher than others) they just give up!

Many people, particularly new Christians, would do well to start with the four gospels in the New Testament. If you are starting to read the Bible for the first time, it might make a lot of sense to begin this way. When you study the gospels think about them like this: Matthew was a tax collector and he faithfully recorded the sermons of Christ. Mark wrote about the humanity of Christ reaching out and holding people. Luke was a physician. In his gospel you read about the miracles Christ performed as well as His parables. In fact Luke wrote more parables than any other Bible writer. John focuses on the divinity of Christ. It was the last gospel written to prove to the Jewish mind that Jesus Christ was the Messiah.

Many people read the Psalms in the evening for peace, comfort, strength and security. Recently, I decided to do something really different! Having read the Psalms a number of times, I decided to start at the end and read to the beginning. As I worked my way backwards I saw things in a different order, and was blessed.

#### How Much Time Should I Spend?

I am a very busy person—working 40, 50 or even 60 hours per week on the job. Plus I have children at home with their busy schedules, and of course my wife. Where in the world do I find time to study the Bible?

Here is what I tell people. The amount of food you eat may not be as important as how well you chew it. Some people set aside an hour a day, or half an hour a day for Bible study, but that may not be realistic for every person. For some, especially as they begin their devotional life, five or 10 minutes set aside to pray, reading a few texts, visualizing the story, identifying with it, and meditating on it will be a great blessing.

Bible reading is not a speed-reading exercise. It is not a particular Bible reading program where we check off the verses that we have read (even though we have included two excellent programs in this book). The purpose of Bible reading is to know God and communicate with Him. He longs to communicate with you. When you come to the Bible with a heart that is passionate to hear Him, even for a few short minutes each day, you will want more and more time with God!

Who knows, when you follow the suggestions in this little book, you may discover that one hour a day is not enough!



## Getting More From Your Bible

George W. Hensley was a preacher who had the habit of adding a little flair to his sermons. One Sunday in 1910, he was almost finished expounding on the last chapter of Mark's gospel when he came to this verse: "they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover" (Mark 16:18).

This was an electric moment for his audience. After allowing a pronounced silence to wash over the crowd, he reached with a flourish into a box and pulled out a large rattlesnake with his bare hands. He handled the snake for a few moments in front of the shocked audience; then declared that, unless the congregation also handled the snake, they risked being "doomed to eternal hell." He made snake handling the ultimate test of faith.

Surprisingly, the practice of snake handling became very popular for a while. It even survived the collapse of Hensley's career (when after about 10 years he left the preaching circuit to make moonshine, and consequentially spent time working in a chain-gang), the break-up of his marriage, and even his death—the result of a nasty snakebite. Mainstream churches have understandably distanced themselves from the snake-handling movement, yet snake handling still claims a following of about 2,500 in North America.

At snake-handler meetings, believers work themselves into a religious frenzy, then pass venomous snakes around the room. Some followers even deliberately drink the poisonous venom. They believe if your faith is strong enough, you will not be harmed. Of course, someone forgot to inform the snakes about what is supposed to happen, and occasionally somebody does get hurt.

When you ask a snake handler why they persist in such obvious fanaticism, they will likely point you to the text in Mark used by Hensley saying, "Take a look for yourself. It says that Christians shall take up serpents. We're supposed to do this. It's a command!"

At first glance, it does look like a command. But when placed in context with the rest of scripture, it obviously is not. The practice of snake handling is remarkably similar to Satan's second temptation to Christ on the pinnacle of the temple: *"If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone'"* (Matthew 4:6). In other words, "Go ahead, do something dangerous. Throw yourself off the temple. Or pass around some deadly snakes. The Bible says that God must protect you!"

Scripture out of context can be lethal! It is one of Satan's favorite deceptions. Fortunately, Jesus took the devil's words and put them back in the context of the rest of the Bible: *"It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God'"* (verse 7). In other words, true Christians do not throw themselves off of high buildings or handle deadly snakes on purpose. There is a dramatic difference between faith and presumption!

It should be obvious to us what was wrong with George Hensley's theology. It was unbalanced. He took a "buffet" approach to scripture, loading only the things that looked appetizing or useful onto his theological plate. The rest the all-important defining scriptural context—he left behind. That is a poor approach to studying scripture.

Sadly, it is also a common one. Christians are often guilty of using scripture like a fortune cookie, or as a garnish for their own opinion. They only turn to the Bible for quick advice the way some people shake a "magic eightball" for the answer to an important question. While this may not always result in such extremes as snake handling, it is still poor scriptural stewardship, and can lead to some rather strange thinking.

Pastor John MacArthur tells the story of watching a popular Christian television program some years ago on which a guest explained the "biblical" basis for his ministry: "My ministry is based entirely on my life-verse, Matthew 19:26: *With God all things are possible.*' God gave me that verse because I was born in 1926."

The host of the program became very excited, and grabbed his Bible to find his life-verse. He was born in 1934, so he looked up Matthew 19:34. There are only 30 verses in Matthew 19, so he turned to the gospel of Luke instead.

Luke 19:34 says, "And they said, 'The Lord has need of him.'"

His eyes grew large with excitement. "Hallelujah!" he exclaimed. "The Lord has need of me!" His excitement disappeared, however, when his wife reminded him of the context: "Wait a minute!" she said. "You can't use this—it's talking about a donkey!"

I have heard scriptural reasoning like this from many Christians.

Here is a simple but important question: how could this have been avoided? How could George Hensley's audience have avoided falling prey to his sensationalism? It's simple: the same way Jesus avoided the temptation to throw Himself off the temple. He quoted scripture in context. That is our safeguard, too—but in order to be able to do it, you have to develop a broad-based knowledge of the Bible.

Tragically, biblical illiteracy appears to be more widespread than ever, even among Christians! For example, consider the troubling experience I had a couple of years ago. I was speaking to a group of young people in church and asked them which was the most popular show on television. Not only were they able to give me the name of the program, they also knew what time the show aired each week on different networks, were familiar with the basic plot, and knew the cast of characters by memory.

Fair enough. Sometimes it is hard to avoid knowing such things in a world so completely saturated by the secular media. But then I asked them where you find the story of David and Goliath in the Bible. I didn't ask for chapter and verse, just the name of the book. And they didn't have to tell me from memory; they were allowed to thumb through their Bibles. An awkward silence fell over the room. Their answers were a long time coming.

This made me wonder. What kind of a devotional life do modern Christians have? Does the average Christian still occasionally wrestle with God through the night for the meaning of important passages? Do we ache for a deeper understanding of Scripture? Does the Bible still saturate the Christian's thinking?

These are very important questions. The Bible reveals that as time winds down the devil is going to pull many tricks out of his hat—some of them much more convincing than an itinerant preacher with a box of snakes and a bottle of poison.

The "last days" prophecy of Revelation 13 tells the story of two beasts. The second beast performs great wonders and even causes fire to fall from heaven. He is very convincing. In fact, the whole world believes him and changes worship from God to the first beast as a result.

It reminds me of the story of the prophet Elijah on Mount Carmel, except that in the Revelation story the fire falls on the wrong altar. How can that be? Is God trying to tell us that in the last crisis faced by planet earth, you won't be able to rely on your senses? Your senses might tell you that the beast appears to be right, and your faith wrong. Your eyes will tell you the beast appears to be a trustworthy miracle-worker. At that time, the only solid place left for you to stand is on the scriptural foundation you have already built, if you *have* built one.

It is extremely important to become thoroughly familiar with your Bible right now. Much so-called Christian literature printed today reveals the scarcity and shallowness of our biblical understanding. The forces of darkness don't mind taking advantage of our ignorance. And, it's not enough to merely know what you believe; you have to know why you believe it!

Many Christians are painfully aware that their devotional life could be much better. It's not that we don't want to study the Bible. More often, the problem is that we don't know how to do it effectively. In the previous chapter we looked at some very good basic principles of Bible study. I now want to build on those by sharing some very important additional suggestions that will propel your study of the Bible even more.

**Develop a Good Habit:** How many times have you wished that you could "just stop doing" such-and-such? Bad habits are powerful. They are hard to break. So why not establish a good one? They can be just as hard to break! Some experts estimate that it takes about 21 days to establish a habit. Habits are formed when we repeatedly condition the neural pathways of our brains to perform a certain activity. If you were to study approximately the same amount of scripture at about the same time each day, you would soon find yourself uncomfortable on the days you didn't do it!

**Study With a Definite Plan:** One of the reasons many of us fail to maintain a serious devotional life is that we fail to study the Bible systematically. Either we "spot-read" by opening to a random passage or we start at the beginning, intending to read through to the end, and give up somewhere in Leviticus or Numbers. We never seem to read the entire Bible.

Try applying the "wear test" to your Bible. To a limited degree, you can see which parts of the Bible are your fa-

vorites simply by looking at the edges of the pages. Where do you thumb to the most often? And, which parts of your Bible still look brand new and unread?

There are many good "through-the-Bible-in-a-year" plans available that can help you overcome this problem. Two are included in this book in chapters 4 and 5. Reading the Bible through each year is a good way to discover the broad ranging will of God for your life. It will keep you honest with biblical context and keep you from handing out snakes in church!

**Read Your Bible Doctrinally:** I personally have found this approach to be tremendously useful. I keep a threering binder in my desk with about 30 dividers in it. Each of those dividers represents a fundamental doctrine of the Bible (such as "salvation," "prayer," or "the Second Coming,") or some other topic I find interesting. As I read through the Bible, I jot down important passages of scripture in the appropriate section of the binder. By the end of the year, I have built a personal concordance. Then as I review the notes in each section, at times I am surprised that I must revise my understanding of a topic in light of the weight of biblical evidence. This method can be a powerful tool to help you grow in understanding!

Another good approach to studying your Bible doctrinally is to simply use a concordance, following the train of thought on a given subject all the way through the Bible. This can be powerful as long as you don't completely abandon a systematic reading of the complete Bible.

**Find the Cross:** The great preacher Charles Spurgeon used to say that no matter where he started in his Bible,

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he always made a beeline for the cross. Every page, every chapter and every verse is a revelation of Jesus Christ. Outside the context of Christ's sacrifice for mankind, you will not find the truth of the matter on any subject. Prayerfully search for the cross as you study; you will be surprised how often its shadow appears in any passage you read, whether in the Old or New Testament.

**Keep it simple:** It is tempting, in a world saturated with information, to make our Bible study time overly complicated. By all means take advantage of the wonderful resources available to you, but don't spend more time in resources and reference books than in the Bible itself.

I have to confess that I have many books in my library. Books are my passion. If I had the time, I could literally disappear into my study and not resurface for weeks, perfectly content to just read. In addition to my library, I have a connection to the World Wide Web, a gateway to almost limitless information. On top of that, I have access to a variety of educational channels on television. There is almost no end to the information I can access—but even good information can be dangerous. In Second Timothy 3:7, Paul describes those who are *"always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.*" That unfortunately describes many people today. It is easy to get lost in the flood of information that is available.

I have heard some argue that modern electronic communication is a blessing from God, and I am certainly open to that idea. (After all, I am writing this on a computer!) I'm not entirely convinced, however, that the modern "information explosion" is always a blessing. Think about it for a moment. There is such a glut of information in our world that the Bible is literally drowned out, even in the lives of well-meaning Christians. One of Satan's best strategies has always been to try to drown out the knowledge of God.

A few hundred years ago, Satan couldn't do much about the fact that the Dark Ages were drawing to a close. The invention of the printing press and the instigation of education of the common man foiled his efforts to keep the Bible out of our hands. God made sure we all had access to the scriptures! I personally believe that Satan then altered his approach saying: "If I can't keep the Bible out of people's hands, perhaps I can flood the market with so many books and so much information that the Bible will be hard to find!"

Check the history books. At the same time that the Great Awakening was causing explosive Christian revival all over the world during the 1800s, there was suddenly an upsurge of "isms" in the marketplace of ideas. Darwinism, Russellism, Mormonism, Spiritualism and dozens of other "isms" all appeared at about the same time. Have you ever wondered why? Perhaps it was because the fallen angels, who couldn't stop the scriptures from being distributed, could only exert influence by flooding the market with alternatives!

Stop for a moment and ask yourself why there is so much violence on television. Is it because Satan wants us to see bad things and have bad thoughts? Perhaps. But consider another possibility: Charles Spurgeon used to say that when he preached the agony of the cross, people would start weeping uncontrollably and be unable to sleep at night. Who still responds that way today? Almost nobody. Why? Because society has seen so much suffering and bloodshed on TV that the story of the cross hardly

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fazes them. Satan is trying to drown out the effectiveness of the message of the cross.

To improve your time studying the Bible, try turning off the electronic entertainment in your home for just a few days. Get rid of the noise and superfluous information. Turn off your radio, your satellite or cable TV, and your Internet connection. Put away your other books and magazines. Your phone will almost certainly ring, but there is no law that says you have to answer it! If it's important, they will call back. Get rid of the noise and you will find your devotional time much more meaningful. You will start to hear the gentle whisper of God's voice throughout the day—long after you have finished reading.

**Give Someone Else a Bible Study:** There is no better way to embed the truths of scripture in your mind than to teach them to someone else. The people of the world have honest questions about God that will continually drive you back to the Bible for answers, and to your knees in prayer. Christian witness is by far the most effective means of spiritual growth!

**Challenge Your Assumptions:** See if you can prove what you believe with your Bible. Assume that you are in a court of law and you must prove to the jury why it is that some fundamental Bible doctrine is important. This will not only make you a keener Bible student, but will also make you better prepared to share your faith with others. You'll be surprised how often the opportunity to witness will come your way when you are prepared!

In recent years I have encountered an alarming number of Christians who seem to be somewhat embarrassed by their faith. I believe that to a large degree this stems from insecurity over its scriptural validity. If you study the Bible systematically and doctrinally each day, such embarrassment vanishes in the face of the overwhelming beauty and consistency of what the Bible has to say.

Some Christians are quite sure they know what they believe, but their version of Christianity is nothing more than a thinly disguised paraphrase of their own opinion. It is often caustic and legalistic, and they often drive people away from the God. If such people were to study the Bible doctrinally and continually challenge their assumptions in the light of the cross, they would present a clearer picture of God to the people they meet.

Challenging your assumptions will also lead to humility. You may discover that you are not always right! When the Bible proves your assumptions false, admit it and adjust your thinking. Prayerful attempts to test your ideas against scripture will keep you humble and growing, both in understanding and in grace.

Quit Studying to Prove Your "Hobbyhorses:" On a number of occasions, I have met Christians who are zealous for a particular cause. When I switch the subject to some other biblical theme, however, they fall silent. Why? Because they have an unbalanced approach to scripture and only study those passages that relate to their favorite "hobbyhorse." They spend most of their moments in the Bible trying to gather more evidence for their side of a particular debate. Some of them have been hammering on the same anvil for 10 or 20 years, and as a result have never managed to grow past their own opinion. Sometimes our hobbyhorses can be the devil's tool even when we are right! A single issue or topic can become so all-consuming that nothing else matters to us, but when faced with a spiritual crisis (as we almost certainly will be) we're going to be left defenseless, because our knowledge of the scriptures is incomplete and unbalanced.

It is much healthier to study quietly and listen for the voice of God as you read the Bible—let Him tell you what is important instead of trying to set the agenda yourself. Never use scripture as a garnish for your own opinion.

**Take Notes As You Read:** People occasionally tell me that they have trouble getting anything out of Bible reading. "Some of the passages are so long and boring," they complain.

If you suffer from this problem yourself, start taking notes as you read. Find a new notebook and jot down any important ideas you encounter. Write down any questions you have about what you're reading. You will be surprised how often those seemingly long, mundane passages hold the answers to your most perplexing questions. Even the genealogies will become significant! Eventually you will find that an hour a day is scarcely enough time for your personal devotional life.

**Read Out Loud:** Some might think you are odd, but who cares? Most of the Bible was written to be enjoyed orally. You will be surprised how much your comprehension level will increase, and how often you'll be able to quote scripture from memory just because you read it out loud.

**Read Backwards Occasionally:** Seriously! I got this idea from the much-loved, speaker of the Voice of Prophecy ra-

dio program, HMS Richards, Sr. Sometimes he would read the last verse of a chapter first, then the next-to-last verse, and so on, until he got to the beginning of the chapter. It's amazing how this technique will force you to pay attention to what you're reading and will really emphasize the context of each verse.

**Try Studying with a Ruler:** This can prove to be an interesting exercise. Try measuring how much space the Bible gives to certain topics. For example: In my Bible, the first day of creation takes up about 1.75 inches, the second day takes 1.4 inches, and the sixth day takes 4.3 inches! Ask yourself why more space is given to some events than others.

**Pray:** The Bible is the work of the Holy Spirit. "But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (1 Corinthians 2:14). It only makes sense to begin each Bible reading with a word of prayer, giving thanks for God's instruction and asking His help in understanding it. Without His assistance, you will not grasp important truths.

There are many techniques to bring your devotional time to life. But the most important advice I can offer you is this: get started now. It's amazing how time spent every day in God's Word will keep you growing and keep you from extremes. I am confident you will reap rich rewards.

"Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God..." (Ephesians 6:13-17)



# Discipleship Journal Bible Reading Plan

This Bible Reading Plan was first published in 1987 by *Discipleship Journal* and has been a great blessing to me.

- Some things that I like about this plan are:
- It is organized by reading in four separate places in the Scripture every day so you can better grasp the breadth and unity of the entire Bible.
- It is also built around 25 days of reading per month, thus allowing you five "catch-up" days each month to help prevent the frustration of falling behind.
- You can begin at any point of the year.

You can download the following chart in various formats at *http://www.bibleinfo.com/dailyreading* 

JANOANI				
	New Tes	stament	Old Tes	tament
1.	🗆 Mt. 1:1-17	□ Acts 1:1-11	□ Ps. 1	🗆 Gen. 1-2
2.	□ 1:18-25	□ 1:12-26	□ 2	□ 3-4
3.	□ 2:1-12	□ 2:1-21	□ 3	□ 5-8
4.	□ 2:13-23	□ 2:22-47	□ 4	□ 9-11
5.	□ 3:1-12	□ 3	□ 5	□ 12-14
6.	□ 3:13-17	□ 4:1-22	□ 6	□ 15-17
7.	□ 4:1-11	□ 4:23-37	□ 7	□ 18-20
8.	□ 4:12-17	□ 5:1-16	□ 8	□ 21-23
9.	□ 4:18-25	□ 5:17-42	□ 9	□ 24
10.	□ 5:1-12	□ 6	□ 10	□ 25-26
11.	□ 5:13-20	□ 7:1-38	□ 11	□ 27-28
12.	□ 5:21-32	□ 7:39-60	□ 12	□ 29-30
13.	□ 5:33-48	□ 8:1-25	□ 13	□ 31
14.	□ 6:1-15	□ 8:26-40	□ 14	□ 32-33
15.	□ 6:16-24	□ 9:1-19	□ 15	□ 34-35
16.	□ 6:25-34	□ 9:20-43	□ 16	□ 36
17.	□ 7:1-14	□ 10:1-23	□ 17	□ 37-38
18.	□ 7:15-29	□ 10:24-48	□ 18:1-25	□ 39-40
19.	□ 8:1-13	□ 11:1-18	□ 18:26-40	□ 41
20.	□ 8:14-22	□ 11:19-30	□ 19	□ 42-43
21.	□ 8:23-34	□ 12	□ 20	□ 44-45
22.	□ 9:1-13	□ 13:1-25	□ 21	□ 46-47
23.	□ 9:14-26	□ 13:26-52	□ 22:1-11	□ 48
24.	□ 9:27-38	□ 14	□ 22:12-31	□ 49
25.	□ 10:1-20	□ 15:1-21	□ 23	□ 50

### **JANUARY**

New Testament			Old Tes	tament
1.	□ Mt. 10:21-42	Acts 15:22-42	□ Ps. 24	□ Ex. 1-3
2.	□ 11:1-19	□ 16:1-15	□ 25	□ 4-6
3.	□ 11:20-30	□ 16:16-40	□ 26	□ 7-9
4.	□ 12:1-21	□ 17:1-15	□ 27	□ 10-12
5.	□ 12:22-37	□ 17:16-34	□ 28	□ 13-15
6.	□ 12:38-50	□ 18:1-17	□ 29	□ 16-18
7.	□ 13:1-23	□ 18:18-28	□ 30	□ 19-20
8.	□ 13:24-43	□ 19:1-22	□ 31	□ 21-23
9.	□ 13:44-58	□ 19:23-41	□ 32	□ 24-26
10.	□ 14:1-21	□ 20:1-12	□ 33	□ 27-29
11.	□ 14:22-36	□ 20:13-38	□ 34	□ 30-31
12.	□ 15:1-20	□ 21:1-26	□ 35	□ 32-33
13.	□ 15:21-39	□ 21:27-40	□ 36	□ 34
14.	□ 16:1-12	□ 22	□ 37:1-22	□ 35-37
15.	□ 16:13-28	□ 23:1-11	□ 37:23-40	□ 38-40
16.	□ 17:1-13	□ 23:12-35	□ 38	🗆 Lev. 1-4
17.	□ 17:14-27	□ 24	□ 39	□ 5-7
18.	□ 18:1-14	□ 25:1-12	□ 40	□ 8-10
19.	□ 18:15-35	□ 25:13-27	□ 41	□ 11-13
20.	□ 19:1-15	□ 26:1-18	□ 42	□ 14-15
21.	□ 19:16-30	□ 26:19-32	□ 43	□ 16-17
22.	□ 20:1-16	□ 27:1-26	□ 44	□ 18-20
23.	□ 20:17-34	□ 27:27-44	□ 45	□ 21-23
24.	□ 21:1-11	□ 28:1-16	□ 46	□ 24-25
25.	□ 21:12-22	□ 28:17-31	□ 47	□ 26-27

## **FEBRUARY**

MANON				
	New Tes	stament	Old Tes	tament
1.	□ Mt. 21:23-32	□ Rom 1:1-17	□ Ps. 48	□ Num. 1-2
2.	□ 21:33-46	□ 1:18-32	□ 49	□ 3-4
3.	□ 22:1-14	□ 2	□ 50	□ 5-6
4.	□ 22:15-33	□ 3	□ 51	□ 7-8
5.	□ 22:34-46	□ 4	□ 52	□ 9-11
6.	□ 23:1-12	□ 5:1-11	□ 53	□ 12-14
7.	□ 23:13-24	□ 5:12-21	□ 54	□ 15-17
8.	□ 23:25-39	□ 6:1-14	□ 55	□ 18-20
9.	□ 24:1-14	□ 6:15-23	□ 56	□ 21-22
10.	□ 24:15-35	□ 7:1-12	□ 57	□ 23-25
11.	□ 24:36-51	□ 7:13-25	□ 58	□ 26-27
12.	□ 25:1-13	□ 8:1-17	□ 59	□ 28-30
13.	□ 25:14-30	□ 8:18-39	□ 60	□ 31-32
14.	□ 25:31-46	□ 9:1-18	□ 61	□ 33-36
15.	□ 26:1-16	□ 9:19-33	□ 62	🗆 Deut. 1-3
16.	□ 26:17-35	□ 10	□ 63	□ 4-5
17.	□ 26:36-56	□ 11:1-24	□ 64	□ 6-8
18.	□ 26:57-75	□ 11:25-36	□ 65	□ 9-12
19.	□ 27:1-10	□ 12:1-8	□ 66	□ 13-17
20.	□ 27:11-26	□ 12:9-21	□ 67	□ 18-21
21.	□ 27:27-44	□ 13	□ 68	□ 22-26
22.	□ 27:45-56	□ 14	□ 69:1-18	□ 27-28
23.	□ 27:57-66	□ 15:1-13	□ 69:19-36	□ 29-31
24.	□ 28:1-10	□ 15:14-33	□ 70	□ 32
25.	□ 28:11-20	□ 16	□ 71	□ 33-34

MARCH

AFRIL				
	New Tes	stament	Old Tes	tament
1.	□ Mk. 1:1-8	□ 1 Cor. 1:1-17	🗆 Ps. 72	🗆 Jos. 1-2
2.	□ 1:9-20	□ 1:18-31	□ 73	□ 3-5
3.	□ 1:21-34	□ 2	□ 74	□ 6-7
4.	□ 1:35-45	□ 3	□ 75	□ 8-9
5.	□ 2:1-12	□ 4	□ 76	□ 10-12
6.	□ 2:13-17	□ 5	□ 77	□ 13-14
7.	□ 2:18-28	□ 6:1-11	□ 78:1-39	□ 15-17
8.	□ 3:1-19	□ 6:12-20	□ 78:40-72	□ 18-19
9.	□ 3:20-35	□ 7:1-16	□ 79	□ 20-21
10.	□ 4:1-20	□ 7:17-40	□ 80	□ 22-23
11.	□ 4:21-41	□ 8	□ 81	□ 24
12.	□ 5:1-20	□ 9:1-12	□ 82	🗆 Jud. 1-3
13.	□ 5:21-43	□ 9:13-27	□ 83	□ 4-5
14.	□ 6:1-13	□ 10:1-13	□ 84	□ 6-7
15.	□ 6:14-29	□ 10:14-33	□ 85	□ 8
16.	□ 6:30-44	□ 11:1-16	□ 86	□ 9
17.	□ 6:45-56	□ 11:17-34	□ 87	□ 10-12
18.	□ 7:1-23	□ 12:1-13	□ 88	□ 13-15
19.	□ 7:24-37	□ 12:14-31	□ 89:1-18	□ 16
20.	□ 8:1-13	□ 13	□ 89:19-52	□ 17-18
21.	□ 8:14-21	□ 14:1-25	□ 90	□ 19
22.	□ 8:22-30	□ 14:26-40	<b>□</b> 91	□ 20-21
23.	□ 8:31-38	□ 15:1-28	□ 92	🗆 Ru. 1
24.	□ 9:1-13	□ 15:29-58	□ 93	□ 2-3
25.	□ 9:14-32	□ 16	□ 94	□ 4

## **APRIL**

MAI				
	New Tes	stament	Old Test	tament
1.	□ Mk. 9:33-50	□ 2 Cor. 1:1-11	🗆 Ps. 95	□ 1 Sam. 1-2
2.	□ 10:1-16	□ 1:12-24	□ 96	□ 3-5
3.	□ 10:17-34	□ 2	D 97	□ 6-8
4.	□ 10:35-52	□ 3	□ 98	□ 9-10
5.	□ 11:1-11	□ 4	□ 99	□ 11-13
6.	□ 11:12-26	□ 5	□ 100	□ 14
7.	□ 11:27-33	□ 6	□ 101	□ 15-16
8.	□ 12:1-12	□ 7	□ 102	□ 17-18
9.	□ 12:13-27	□ 8	□ 103	□ 19-20
10.	□ 12:28-34	□ 9	□ 104	□ 21-23
11.	□ 12:35-44	□ 10	□ 105	□ 24-25
12.	□ 13:1-13	□ 11:1-15	□ 106:1-23	□ 26-28
13.	□ 13:14-31	□ 11:16-33	□ 106:24-48	□ 29-31
14.	□ 13:32-37	□ 12:1-10	□ 107	🗆 2 Sam. 1-2
15.	□ 14:1-11	□ 12:11-21	□ 108	□ 3-4
16.	□ 14:12-31	□ 13	□ 109	□ 5-7
17.	□ 14:32-42	🗆 Gal. 1	□ 110	□ 8-10
18.	□ 14:43-52	□ 2	□ 111	□ 11-12
19.	□ 14:53-65	□ 3:1-14	□ 112	□ 13
20.	□ 14:66-72	□ 3:15-29	□ 113	□ 14-15
21.	□ 15:1-15	□ 4:1-20	□ 114	□ 16-17
22.	□ 15:16-32	□ 4:21-31	□ 115	□ 18-19
23.	□ 15:33-41	□ 5:1- 12	□ 116	□ 20-21
24.	□ 15:42-47	□ 5:13-26	□ 117	□ 22
25.	□ 16	□ 6	□ 118	□ 23-24

MAY

JUNE				
	New Tes	stament	Old Testament	
1.	□ Lk. 1:1-25	🗆 Eph. 1:1-14	□ Ps. 119:1-8	□ 1 Kings 1
2.	□ 1:26-38	□ 1:15-23	□ 119:9-16	□ 2-3
3.	□ 1:39-56	□ 2:1-10	□ 119:17-24	□ 4-5
4.	□ 1:57-66	□ 2:11-22	□ 119:25-32	□ 6-7
5.	□ 1:67-80	□ 3:1-13	□ 119:33-40	□ 8
6.	□ 2:1-20	□ 3:14-21	□ 119:41-48	□ 9-10
7.	□ 2:21-40	□ 4:1-16	□ 119:49-56	□ 11
8.	□ 2:41-52	□ 4:17-24	□ 119:57-64	□ 12
9.	□ 3:1-20	□ 4:25-32	□ 119:65-72	□ 13-14
10.	□ 3:21-38	□ 5:1-21	□ 119:73-80	□ 15-16
11.	□ 4:1-12	□ 5:22-23	□ 119:81-88	□ 17-18
12.	□ 4:13-30	□ 6:1-9	□ 119:89-96	□ 19-20
13.	□ 4:31-37	□ 6:10-24	□ 119:97-104	□ 21-22
14.	□ 4:38-44	D Phil. 1:1-11	□ 119:105-112	□ 2 Kings 1-3
15.	□ 5:1-11	□ 1:12-20	□ 119:113-120	□ 4-5
16.	□ 5:12-16	□ 1:21-30	□ 119:121-128	□ 6-7
17.	□ 5:17-26	□ 2:1-11	□ 119:129-136	□ 8-9
18.	□ 5:27-32	□ 2:12-18	□ 119:137-144	□ 10-11
19.	□ 5:33-39	□ 2:19-30	□ 119:145-152	□ 12-13
20.	□ 6:1-16	□ 3:1-9	□ 119:153-160	□ 14-15
21.	□ 6:17-26	□ 3:10-14	□ 119:161-168	□ 16-17
22.	□ 6:27-36	□ 3:15-21	□ 119:169-176	□ 18-19
23.	□ 6:37-42	□ 4:1-7	□ 120	□ 20-21
24.	□ 6:43-49	□ 4:8-13	□ 121	□ 22-23
25.	□ 7:1-10	□ 4:14-23	□ 122	□ 24-25

JUNE

	JULI				
	New Tes	stament	Old Tes	tament	
1.	□ Lk. 7:11-17	□ Col. 1:1-14	🗆 Ps. 123-124	🗆 1 Chr. 1-2	
2.	□ 7:18-35	□ 1:15-29	□ 125	□ 3-4	
3.	□ 7:36-50	□ 2:1-7	□ 126	□ 5-6	
4.	□ 8:1-15	□ 2:8-15	□ 127	□ 7-9	
5.	□ 8:16-25	□ 2:16-23	□ 128	□ 10-11	
6.	□ 8:26-39	□ 3:1-14	□ 129	□ 12-14	
7.	□ 8:40-56	□ 3:15-25	□ 130-131	□ 15-16	
8.	□ 9:1-17	□ 4:1-9	□ 132	□ 17-19	
9.	□ 9:18-27	□ 4:10-18	□ 133-134	□ 20-22	
10.	□ 9:28-36	🗆 1 Thes. 1	□ 135	□ 23-25	
11.	□ 9:37-50	□ 2:1-9	□ 136	□ 26-28	
12.	□ 9:51-62	□ 2:10-20	□ 137	□ 29	
13.	□ 10:1-16	□ 3:1-6	□ 138	🗆 2 Chr. 1-2	
14.	□ 10:17-24	□ 3:7-13	□ 139	□ 3-5	
15.	□ 10:25-37	□ 4:1-10	□ 140	□ 6-7	
16.	□ 10:38-42	□ 4:11-18	□ 141	□ 8-9	
17.	□ 11:1-13	□ 5:1-11	□ 142	□ 10-12	
18.	□ 11:14-28	□ 5:12-28	□ 143	□ 13-16	
19.	□ 11:29-36	□ 2 Thes. 1:1-7	□ 144	□ 17-19	
20.	□ 11:37-54	□ 1:8-12	□ 145	□ 20-21	
21.	□ 12:1-12	□ 2:1-12	□ 146	□ 22-24	
22.	□ 12:13-21	□ 2:13-17	□ 147	□ 25-27	
23.	□ 12:22-34	□ 3:1-5	□ 148	□ 28-29	
24.	□ 12:35-48	□ 3:6-13	□ 149	□ 30-33	
25.	□ 12:49-59	□ 3:14-18	□ 150	□ 34-36	

JULY

	New Testament Old Testament			
1.	🗆 Lk. 13:1-9	🗆 1 Tim. 1:1-11	Prov. 1	🗆 Ezra 1-2
2.	□ 13:10-21	□ 1:12-20	□ 2	□ 3
3.	□ 13:22-35	□ 2	□ 3	□ 4-5
4.	□ 14:1-14	□ 3:1-10	□ 4	□ 6
5.	□ 14:15-24	□ 3:11-16	□ 5	□ 7
6.	□ 14:25-35	□ 4	□ 6	□ 8
7.	□ 15:1-10	□ 5:1-15	□ 7	□ 9
8.	□ 15:11-32	□ 5:16-25	□ 8	□ 10
9.	□ 16:1-9	□ 6:1-10	□ 9	□ Neh. 1-2
10.	□ 16:10-18	□ 6:11-21	□ 10:1-16	□ 3
11.	□ 16:19-31	🗆 2. Tim. 1:1-7	□ 10:17-32	□ 4-5
12.	□ 17:1-10	□ 1:8-18	□ 11:1-15	□ 6
13.	□ 17:11-19	□ 2:1-13	□ 11:16-31	□ 7
14.	□ 17:20-37	□ 2:14-26	□ 12:1-14	□ 8
15.	□ 18:1-8	□ 3:1-9	□ 12:15-28	□ 9
16.	□ 18:9-17	□ 3:10-17	□ 13:1-12	□ 10
17.	□ 18:18-30	□ 4	□ 13:13-25	□ 11
18.	□ 18:31-43	🗖 Ti. 1:1-9	□ 14:1-18	□ 12
19.	□ 19:1-10	□ 1:10-16	□ 14:19-35	□ 13
20.	□ 19:11-27	□ 2:1-10	□ 15:1-17	🗆 Est. 1
21.	□ 19:28-38	□ 2:11-15	□ 5:18-33	□ 2
22.	□ 19:39-48	□ 3:1-8	□ 16:1-16	□ 3-4
23.	□ 20:1-8	□ 3:9-15	□ 16:17-33	□ 5-6
24.	□ 20:9-19	🗆 Phil. 1-11	□ 17:1-14	□ 7-8
25.	□ 20:20-26	□ 12-25	□ 17:15-28	□ 9-10

## AUGUST

	New Tes	stament	Old Tes	tament
1.	□ Lk. 20:27-40	□ Heb. 1:1-9	□ Prov. 18	🗆 ls. 1-2
2.	□ 20:41-47	□ 1:10-14	□ 19:1-14	□ 3-5
3.	□ 21:1-19	□ 2:1-9	□ 19:15-29	□ 6-8
4.	□ 21:20-28	□ 2:10-18	□ 20:1-15	□ 9-10
5.	□ 21:29-38	□ 3	□ 20:16-30	□ 11-13
6.	□ 22:1-13	□ 4:1-11	□ 21:1-16	□ 14-16
7.	□ 22:14-23	□ 4:12-16	□ 21:17-29	□ 17-20
8.	□ 22:24-30	□ 5	□ 22:1-16	□ 21-23
9.	□ 22:31-38	□ 6:1-12	□ 22:17-29	□ 24-26
10.	□ 22:39:46	□ 6:13-20	□ 23:1-18	□ 27-28
11.	□ 22:47-53	□ 7:1-10	□ 23:19 -35	□ 29-30
12.	□ 22:54-62	□ 7:11-28	□ 24:1-22	□ 31-33
13.	□ 22:63-71	□ 8:1-6	□ 24:23-34	□ 34-36
14.	□ 23:1-12	□ 8:7-13	□ 25:1-14	□ 37-39
15.	□ 23:13-25	□ 9:1-10	□ 25:15-28	□ 40-41
16.	□ 23:26-31	□ 9:11-28	□ 26:1-16	□ 42-43
17.	□ 23:32-37	□ 10:1-18	□ 26:17-28	□ 44-45
18.	□ 23:38-43	□ 10:19-39	□ 27:1-14	□ 46-48
19.	□ 23:44-49	□ 11:1-16	□ 27:15-27	□ 49-50
20.	□ 23:50-56	□ 11:17-31	□ 28:1-14	□ 51-53
21.	□ 24:1-12	□ 11:32-40	□ 28:15-27	□ 54-55
22.	□ 24:13-27	□ 12:1-13	□ 29:1-14	□ 56-58
23.	□ 24:28-35	□ 12:14-29	□ 29:15-27	□ 59-61
24.	□ 24:36-44	□ 13:1-8	□ 30	□ 62-64
25.	□ 24:45-53	□ 13:9-25	□ 31	□ 65-66

## **SEPTEMBER**

	New Tes	stament	Old Tes	tament	
1.	□ John 1:1-18	□ James 1:1-11	Eccl. 1	□ Jer. 1-2	
2.	□ 1:19-28	□ 1:12-18	□ 2:1-16	□ 3-4	
3.	□ 1:29-34	□ 1:19-27	□ 2:17-26	□ 5-6	
4.	□ 1:35-42	□ 2:1-13	□ 3:1-12	□ 7-9	
5.	□ 1:43-51	□ 2:14-26	□ 3:13-18	□ 10-11	
6.	□ 2:1-11	□ 3:1-12	□ 4	□ 12-13	
7.	□ 2:12-25	□ 3:13-18	□ 5	□ 14-15	
8.	□ 3:1-15	□ 4:1-10	□ 6	□ 16-18	
9.	□ 3:16-21	□ 4:11-17	□ 7:1-14	□ 19-22	
10.	□ 3:22-36	□ 5:1-6	□ 7:15-29	□ 23-25	
11.	□ 4:4-14	□ 5:7-12	□ 8	□ 26-29	
12.	□ 4:15-26	□ 5:13-20	□ 9	□ 30-31	
13.	□ 4:27-42	🗆 1 Pt. 1:1-9	□ 10	□ 32-34	
14.	□ 4:43-54	□ 1:10-16	□ 11	□ 35-38	
15.	□ 5:1-15	□ 1:17-25	□ 12	□ 39-43	
16.	□ 5:16-30	□ 2:1-8	□ Song. 1	□ 44-46	
17.	□ 5:31-47	□ 2:9-17	□ 2	□ 47-48	
18.	□ 6:1-15	□ 2:18-25	□ 3	□ 49	
19.	□ 6:16-24	□ 3:1-7	□ 4:1-7	□ 50	
20.	□ 6:25-40	□ 3:8-12	□ 4:8-16	□ 51	
21.	□ 6:41-59	□ 3:13-22	□ 5	□ 52	
22.	□ 6:60-71	□ 4:1-11	□ 6	🗆 Lam. 1	
23.	□ 7:1-13	□ 4:12-19	□ 7	□ 2	
24.	□ 7:14-24	□ 5:1-7	□ t8:1-7	□ 3	
25.	□ 7:25-36	□ 5:8-14	□ 8:8-14	□ 4-5	

## **OCTOBER**

	New Tes	stament	Old Tes	tament	
1.	□ John 7:37-44	🗆 2 Pet. 1:1-11	🗆 Job 1	🗆 Ez. 1-3	
2.	□ 7:45-53	□ 1:12-21	□ 2	□ 4-8	
3.	□ 8:1-11	□ 2:1-9	□ 3	□ 9-12	
4.	□ 8:12-20	□ 2:10-16	□ 4	□ 13-15	
5.	□ 8:21-30	□ 2:17-22	□ 5	□ 16	
6.	□ 8:31-47	□ 3:1-9	□ 6	□ 17-19	
7.	□ 8:48-59	□ 3:10-18	□ 7	□ 20-21	
8.	□ 9:1-12	□ 1 John 1:1-4	□ 8	□ 22-23	
9.	□ 9:13-25	□ 1:5-10	□ 9:1-20	□ 24-26	
10.	□ 9:26-41	□ 2:1-11	□ 9:21-35	□ 27-28	
11.	□ 10:1-10	□ 2:12-17	□ 10	□ 29-30	
12.	□ 10:11-21	□ 2:18-23	□ 11	□ 31-32	
13.	□ 10:22-42	□ 2:24-29	□ 12	□ 33-34	
14.	□ 11:1-16	□ 3:1-10	□ 13	□ 35-37	
15.	□ 11:17-37	□ 3:11-18	□ 14	□ 38-39	
16.	□ 11:38-44	□ 3:19-24	□ 15:1-16	□ 40-41	
17.	□ 11:45-57	□ 4:1-6	□ 15:17-35	□ 42-44	
18.	□ 12:1-11	□ 4:7-21	□ 16	□ 45-47	
19.	□ 12:12-19	□ 5:1-12	□ 17	□ 48	
20.	□ 12:20-36	□ 5:13-21	□ 18	🗆 Dan. 1-2	
21.	□ 12:37-50	🗆 2 John 1-13	□ 19	□ 3-4	
22.	□ 13:1-11	🗆 3 John 1-14	□ 20	□ 5-6	
23.	□ 13:12-17	□ Jude 1-7	□ 21:1-21	□ 7-8	
24.	□ 13:18-30	□ 8-16	□ 21:22-34	□9	
25.	□ 13:31-38	□ 17-25	□ 22	□ 10-12	

## **NOVEMBER**

	New Tes	stament	Old Tes	tament
1.	□ John 14:1-14	□ Rev. 1:1-8	□ Job 23	□ Hos. 1-3
2.	□ 14:15-21	□ 1:9-20	□ 24	□ 4-6
3.	□ 14:22-31	□ 2:1-17	□ 25-26	□ 7-8
4.	□ 15:1-8	□ 2:18-29	□ 27	□ 9-12
5.	□ 15:9-17	□ 3:1-13	□ 28	□ 13-14
6.	□ 15:18-27	□ 3:14-22	□ 29	Joel 1
7.	□ 16:1-11	□ 4	□ 30	□ 2-3
8.	□ 16:12-24	□ 5	□ 31:1-23	□ Amos 1-2
9.	□ 16:25-33	□ 6	□ 31:24-40	□ 3-4
10.	□ 17:1-5	□ 7	□ 32	□ 5-6
11.	□ 17:6-19	□ 8	□ 33:1-11	□ 7-9
12.	□ 17:20-26	□ 9	□ 33:12-33	🗆 Ob. 1-21
13.	□ 18:1-18	□ 10	□ 34:1-20	🗆 Jon. 1-4
14.	□ 18:19-27	□ 11	□ 34:21-37	□ Mic. 1-3
15.	□ 18:28-40	□ 12	□ 35	□ 4-5
16.	□ 19:1-16	□ 13	□ 36:1-15	□ 6-7
17.	□ 19:17-27	□ 14	□ 36:16-33	🗆 Nah. 1-3
18.	□ 19:28-37	□ 15	□ 37	🗆 Hab. 1-3
19.	□ 19:38-42	□ 16	□ 38:1-21	🗆 Zeph. 1-2
20.	□ 20:1-9	□ 17	□ 38:22-41	□ 3
21.	□ 20:10-18	□ 18	□ 39	🗆 Hag. 1-2
22.	□ 20:19-23	□ 19	□ 40	🗆 Zech. 1-5
23.	□ 20:24-31	□ 20	□ 41:1-11	□ 6-9
24.	□ 21:1-14	□ 21	□ 41:12-34	□ 10-1
25.	□ 21:15-25	□ 22	□ 42	□ Mal 1-4

## DECEMBER

Chapter Five 

## Read the Bible in a Year

This yearly Bible reading plan is built around a reading for each day of the month. The 1,189 chapters of the Bible can be read at a rate of 3 chapters per day. There are 929 chapters from the Old Testament and 260 chapters from the New Testament, so please expect to read more from the Old Testament than the New.

The first month is devoted to Genesis and Exodus. The last month is largely devoted to the prophetic books of Daniel and Revelation. Passages from the Psalms are included every 10th day. The New Testament starts in the second month, and generally there will be one NT chapter per day.

You can download the following chart in various formats at *http://www.bibleinfo.com/dailyreading*  January:

- 1. Gen. 1-4
- 2. Gen. 5-8
- 3. Gen. 9-11
- 4. Gen. 12-15
- 5. Gen. 16-19
- 6. Gen. 20-23
- 7. Gen. 24-26
- 8. Gen. 27-30
- 9. Gen. 31-33
- 10. Gen. 34-37
- 11. Gen. 38-41
- 12. Gen. 42-44
- 13. Gen. 45-47
- 14. Gen. 48-50
- 15. Ps. 1-4
- 16. Ps. 5-8
- 17. Ex. 1-4
- 18. Ex. 5-7
- 19. Ex. 8-10
- 20. Ex. 11-13
- 21. Ex. 14-16
- 22. Ex. 17-19
- 23. Ex. 20-22
- 24. Ps. 9-12
- 25. Ex. 23-25
- 26. Ex. 26-28
- 27. Ex. 27-31
- 28. Ex. 32-34
- 29. Ex. 35-37
- 30. Ex. 38-40
- 31. Lev. 1-4

#### February:

- 1. Lev. 5-8
- 2. Ps. 13-16
- Lev. 9-12 & Jn. 1
- 4. Lev. 13-15 & Jn. 2
- 5. Lev. 16-18 & Jn. 3

- 6. Lev. 19-21 & Jn. 4 7. Lev. 22-24 & Jn. 5 Lev. 25-27 & Jn. 6 8. 9 Num. 1-2 & Jn. 7 Num. 3-4 & Jn. 8 10. 11. Ps. 17-20 12. Num. 5-6 & Jn. 9 13. Num, 7-8 & Jn, 10 14. Num, 9-10 & Jn, 11 Num. 11-12 & Jn. 12 15. 16. Num, 13-14 & Jn, 13 Num. 15-16 & Jn. 14 17. 18. Num. 17-18 & Jn. 15 19. Num. 19-20 & Jn. 16 20. Ps. 21-24 21. Num. 21-22 & Jn. 17 22. Num, 23-24 & Jn, 18 Num. 25-26 & Jn. 19 23. 24. Num. 27-28 & Jn. 20 25. Num. 29-30 & Jn. 21 Num. 31-32 26. 27. Num. 33-34
- 28. Num. 35-36

#### March:

- 1. Ps. 25-28
- 2. Deut. 1-2 & Mt. 1
- 3. Deut. 3-4 & Mt. 2
- 4. Deut. 5-6 & Mt. 3
- 5. Deut. 7-8
- 6. Deut. 9-10 & Mt. 4
- 7. Deut. 11-12
- 8. Deut. 13-14 & Mt. 5
- 9. Deut. 15-16
- 10. Ps. 29-32
- 11. Deut. 17-18 & Mt. 6
- 12. Deut. 19-20
- 13. Deut. 21-22 & Mt. 7
- 14. Deut. 23-24

15.	Deut. 25-26 & Mt. 8
16.	Deut. 27-28
17.	Deut. 29-30 & Mt. 9
18.	Deut. 31-32
19.	Deut. 33-34 & Mt. 10
20.	Ps. 33-36
21.	Josh. 1-2 & Mt. 11
22.	Josh. 3-4
23.	Josh. 5-6 & Mt. 12
24.	Josh. 7-8
25.	Josh. 9-10 & Mt. 13
26.	Josh. 11-12 Josh. 13-14 & Mt. 14
27.	Josh. 13-14 & Mt. 14
28.	Ps. 37-40
29.	Josh. 15-16 & Mt. 15
	Josh. 17-18
31.	Josh. 19-20 & Mt. 16
April:	
1.	Josh. 21-22
2.	Josh. 23-24 & Mt. 17
3.	Judg. 1-2
4.	Judg. 3-4 & Mt. 18
5.	Judg. 5-6
6.	Ps. 41-44
7.	Judg. 7-8 & Mt. 19
8.	Judg. 9-10
9.	Judg. 11-12 & Mt. 20
10.	Judg. 13-14
11.	Judg. 15-16 & Mt. 21
12.	Judg. 17-18
13.	Judg. 19-21
14.	Ruth 1-4
	Ps. 45-48
16.	1 Sam. 1-2 & Mt. 22
17.	1 Sam. 3-4
18.	1 Sam. 5-6 & Mt. 23
	1 Sam. 7-8
20.	1 Sam. 9-10 & Mt. 24

<ol> <li>22.</li> <li>23.</li> <li>24.</li> <li>25.</li> <li>26.</li> <li>27.</li> <li>28.</li> <li>29.</li> </ol>	1 Sam. 11-12 1 Sam. 13-14 1 Sam. 15-16 & Mt. 25 Ps. 49-52 1 Sam. 17-18 & Mt. 26 1 Sam. 19-20 1 Sam. 21-22 & Mt. 27 1 Sam. 23-24 1 Sam. 25-26 1 Sam. 27-28 & Mt. 28
3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21.	1 Sam. 29-31 Ps. 53-56 2 Sam. 1-2 & Mk. 1 2 Sam. 3-4 2 Sam. 5-6 & Mk. 2 2 Sam. 7-8 2 Sam. 9-10 & Mk. 3 2 Sam. 11-12 2 Sam. 13-14 & Mk. 4 2 Sam. 15-16 2 Sam. 17-18 Ps. 57-60 2 Sam. 19-20 & Mk. 5 2 Sam. 21-22 2 Sam. 23-24 & Mk. 6 1 Kings 1-2 1 Kings 3-4 & Mk. 7 1 Kings 5-6 1 Kings 7-8 & Mk. 8 1 Kings 9-10 Ps. 61-64
22. 23.	1 Kings 11-12 & Mk. 9 1 Kings 13-14 1 Kings 15-16 & Mk. 10 1 Kings 17-18

- 26. 1 Kings 19-20 & Mk. 11 27. 1 Kings 21-22 & Mk. 12

28. 2 Kings 1-2 & Mk. 13 2 Kings 3-4 & Mk. 14 29. 30. Ps. 65-68 31. 2 Kings 5-6 & Mk. 15 June: 2 Kings 7-8 & Mk. 16 1. 2. 2 Kings 9-10 & Lk. 1 2 Kings 11-12 & Lk. 2 3. 4. 2 Kings 13-14 & Lk. 3 2 Kings 15-16 & Lk. 4 5. 6. 2 Kinas 17-18 & Lk. 5 2 Kings 19-20 & Lk. 6 7. 8. Ps. 69-72 9. 2 Kings 21-22 & Lk. 7 10. 2 Kings 23-25 & Lk. 8 11. 1 Chr. 1-2 & Lk. 9 12. 1 Chr. 3-4 & Lk. 10 13. 1 Chr. 5-6 & Lk. 11 14. 1 Chr. 7-8 & Lk. 12 15. 1 Chr. 9-10 & Lk. 13 16. 1 Chr. 11-12 & Lk. 14 17. Ps. 73-76 18. 1 Chr. 13-14 & Lk. 15 19. 1 Chr. 15-16 & Lk. 16 20. 1 Chr. 17-18 & Lk. 17 1 Chr. 19-20 & Lk. 18 21. 22. 1 Chr. 21-22 & Lk. 19 23. 1 Chr. 23-24 & Lk. 20 1 Chr. 25-26 & Lk. 21 24. 25. 1 Chr. 27-29 & Lk. 22 26. Ps. 77-80 2 Chr. 1-2 & Lk. 23 27. 28. 2 Chr. 3-4 & Lk. 24 2 Chr. 5-6 & Acts 1 29. 2 Chr. 7-8 & Acts 2 30.

#### July:

1. 2 Chr. 9-10 & Acts 3

2. 2 Chr. 11-12 & Acts 4 3. 2 Chr. 13-14 & Acts 5 2 Chr. 15-16 & Acts 6 4. 5. Ps. 81-84 2 Chr. 17-18 & Acts 7 6. 2 Chr. 19-20 & Acts 8 7. 2 Chr. 21-22 & Acts 9 8. 2 Chr. 23-24 & Acts 10 9. 2 Chr. 25-26 & Acts 11 10. 2 Chr. 27-28 & Acts 12 11. 2 Chr. 29-30 & Acts 13 12. 13. 2 Chr. 31-32 & Acts 14 14. Ps. 85-88 15. 2 Chr. 33-34 & Acts 15 2 Chr. 35-36 & Acts 16 16. 17. Ezra 1-2 & Acts 17 Ezra 3-4 & Acts 18 18. 19. Ezra 5-6 & Acts 19 20. Ezra 7-8 & Acts 20 21. Ezra 9-10 & Acts 21 22. Ps. 89-92 23. Neh. 1-2 & Acts 22 24. Neh. 3-4 & Acts 23 25. Neh. 5-6 & Acts 24 26. Neh. 7-9 & Acts 25 Neh. 10-11 & Acts 26 27. Neh. 12-13 & Acts 27 28. 29. Esth. 1-2 & Acts 28 30. Esth. 3-4 & Rom. 1 31. Esth. 5-7 & Rom. 2

#### August:

- 1. Esth. 8-10 & Rom. 3
- 2. Ps. 93-96
- 3. Job 1-3 & Rom. 4
- 4. Job 4-6 & Rom. 5
- 5. Job 7-9 & Rom. 6
- 6. Job 10-12 & Rom. 7
- 7. Job 13-15 & Rom. 8

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8.	Job 16-18 & Rom. 9
9.	Job 19-21 & Rom. 10
10.	Ps. 97-100
11.	Job 22-24 & Rom. 11
12.	Job 25-27 & Rom. 12
13.	Job 28-30 & Rom. 13
14.	Job 31-33 & Rom. 14
15.	Job 34-36 & Rom. 15
16.	Job 37-39 & Rom. 16
17.	Job 40-42 & 1 Cor. 1
18.	Prov. 1-2 & 1 Cor. 2
19.	Prov. 3-4 & 1 Cor. 3
20.	Ps. 101-104
21.	Prov. 5-7 & 1 Cor. 4
22.	Prov. 8-9 & 1 Cor. 5
23.	Prov. 10-11 & 1 Cor. 6
24.	Prov. 12-13 & 1 Cor. 7
25.	Prov. 14-15 & 1 Cor. 8
26.	Prov. 16-17 & 1 Cor. 9
27.	Prov. 18-19 & 1 Cor. 10
28.	Prov. 20-21 & 1 Cor. 11
29.	Prov. 22-23 & 1 Cor. 12
30.	Prov. 24-25 & 1 Cor. 13
31.	Prov. 26-27 & 1 Cor. 14
51.	FIUV. 20-27 & 1 CUI. 14
Septer	nher
1.	
2.	Prov. 30-31 & 1 Cor. 16

- 3. Ecc. 1-3 & 2 Cor. 1 4. Ecc. 4-6 & 2 Cor. 2
- 5. Ecc. 7-9 & 2 Cor. 3
- 6. Ecc. 10-12
- 7. Ps. 105-107
- 8. Ps. 108-110
- 9. Song. 1-2 & 2 Cor. 4
- 10. Song. 3-4 & 2 Cor. 5
- 11. Song. 5-6 & 2 Cor. 6
- 12. Song. 7-8 & 2 Cor. 7
- 13. Isa. 1-3 & 2 Cor. 8

14. Isa. 4-6 & 2 Cor. 9 15. Isa. 7-9 & 2 Cor. 10 16. Isa. 10-12 & 2 Cor. 11 17. Isa. 13-15 & 2 Cor. 12 18. Isa. 16-18 & 2 Cor. 13 Isa, 19-21 & Gal, 1 19. 20. Ps. 111-114 21. Isa, 22-24 & Gal, 2 22. Isa. 25-27 & Gal. 3 23. Isa. 28-30 & Gal. 4 24. Isa. 31-33 & Gal. 5 25. Isa. 34-36 & Gal. 6 26. Isa. 37-39 & Eph. 1 27. Isa. 40-42 & Eph. 2 28. Isa, 43-45 & Eph, 3 29. Isa. 46-48 & Eph. 4 30. Isa. 49-51 & Eph. 5

#### October:

1. Isa. 52-54 & Eph. 6 2. Isa. 55-57 Phil. 1 3. Ps. 115-118 Isa. 58-60 & Phil. 2 4. Isa, 61-63 & Phil, 3 5. 6. Isa. 64-66 & Phil. 4 7. Jer. 1-3 & Col. 1 8. Jer. 4-6 & Col. 2 9. Jer. 7-9 & Col. 3 10. Jer. 10-12 & Col. 4 11. Ps. 119 12. Ps. 120-122 13. Jer. 13-15 & 1 Thess. 1 14. Jer. 16-18 & 1 Thess. 2 15. Jer. 19-21 & 1 Thess. 3 16. Jer. 22-24 & 1 Thess. 4 17. Jer. 25-27 & 1 Thess. 5 18. Jer. 28-30 & 2 Thess. 1 Jer. 31-33 & 2 Thess. 2 19. 20. Jer. 34-36 & 2 Thess. 3

<ol> <li>21.</li> <li>22.</li> <li>23.</li> <li>24.</li> <li>25.</li> <li>26.</li> <li>27.</li> <li>28.</li> <li>29.</li> <li>30.</li> <li>31.</li> </ol>	Ps. 123-126 Jer. 37-39 & 1 Tim. 1 Jer. 40-42 & 1 Tim. 2 Jer. 43-45 & 1 Tim. 3 Jer. 46-48 & 1 Tim. 4 Jer. 49-50 & 1 Tim. 5 Jer. 51-52 & 1 Tim. 6 Lam. 1-2 & 2 Tim. 1 Lam. 3-5 & 2 Tim. 2 Ezek. 1-3 & 2 Tim. 3 Ezek. 4-6 & 2 Tim. 4
Novem 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 26. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 26. 27. 26. 27. 26. 27. 26. 27. 27. 28. 20. 21. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 26. 27. 26. 27. 26. 27. 26. 27. 26. 27. 26. 27. 26. 27. 26. 27. 27. 26. 27. 26. 27. 26. 27. 26. 27. 26. 27. 26. 27. 27. 26. 27. 26. 27. 26. 27. 26. 27. 26. 27. 26. 27. 26. 27. 26. 27. 26. 27. 26. 27. 27. 26. 27. 26. 27. 26. 27. 26. 27. 26. 27. 26. 27. 26. 27. 26. 26. 27. 26. 26. 26. 26. 26. 26. 26. 26	hber: Ezek. 7-9 & Titus 1 Ezek. 10-12 & Titus 2 Ezek. 13-15 & Titus 3 Ezek. 16-18 & Phil. Ps. 127-130 Ps. 131-134 Ezek. 19-21 & Heb. 1 Ezek. 22-24 & Heb. 2 Ezek. 22-24 & Heb. 3 Ezek. 22-24 & Heb. 3 Ezek. 28-30 & Heb. 4 Ezek. 31-33 & Heb. 5 Ezek. 31-33 & Heb. 5 Ezek. 34-36 & Heb. 6 Ezek. 37-39 & Heb. 7 Ezek. 40-42 & Heb. 8 Ezek. 43-45 & Heb. 9 Ezek. 46-48 & Heb. 10 Hos. 1-3 & Heb. 11 Hos. 4-6 & Heb. 12 Hos. 7-9 & Heb. 13 Hos. 10-12 & Jas. 1 Hos. 13-14 & Jas. 2 Joel 1-3 & Jas. 3 Am. 1-3 & Jas. 4 Am. 4-6 & Jas. 5 Ps. 135-138 Am. 7-9 & 1 Pet. 1

27. Ob. & 1 Pet. 2
 28. Jon. 1-4 & 1 Pet. 3
 29. Mic. 1-2 & 1 Pet. 4
 30. Mic. 3-5 & 1 Pet. 5

#### December:

- 1. Mic. 6-7 & 2 Pet. 1
- 2. Nah. 1-3 & 2 Pet. 2
- 3. Hab. 1-3 & 2 Pet. 3
- 4. Ps. 139-142
- 5. Zeph. 1-3 & 1 Jn. 1
- 6. Hag. 1-2 & 1 Jn. 2
- 7. Zech 1-3 & 1 Jn. 3
- 8. Zech 4-6 & 1 Jn. 4
- 9. Zech 7-9 & 1 Jn. 5
- 10. Zech 10-12 & 2 Jn.
- 11. Zech 13-14 & 3 Jn.
- 12. Mal. 1-4 & Jude
- 13. Ps. 143-146
- 14. Dan. 1-2
- 15. Dan. 3-4
- 16. Dan. 5-6
- 17. Dan. 7-8
- 18. Dan. 9-10
- 19. Dan. 11-12
- 20. Ps. 147-150
- 21. Rev. 1-2
- 22. Rev. 3-4
- 23. Rev. 5-6
- 24. Rev. 7-8
- 25. Rev. 9-10
- 26. Rev. 11-12
- 27. Rev. 13-14
- 28. Rev. 15-16
- 29. Rev. 17-18
- 30. Rev. 19-20
- 31. Rev. 21-22

Chapter Six 

## Bible Study Resources

The following list, while not exhaustive, provides some dependable and useful resources that will aid you in your study of the Bible.

### **Online Websites:**

**Bibleinfo.com.** This website provides what the Bible has to say about more than 350 of life's important questions, along with the opportunity to submit questions about the Bible. (*http://www.bibleinfo.com/*)

**KidsBibleinfo.com.** Designed especially for children of grade school age, this site provides big answers for little people—from the Bible—along with character-building stories and lessons. (*http://www.KidsBibleinfo.com/*)

**The Word on the Web.** Free Bible study guides for developing a dynamic walk with God.

• Online Discover Bible Guides: Learn how the major themes of Scripture point to a God of love and mercy.

#### (http://www.itiswritten.com/discover)

- New Beginnings Video Bible Studies (English and Spanish): View a fascinating series of studies covering the whole Bible. (http://www.itiswritten.com/new\_beginnings)
- Search for Certainty: If you are searching for answers to many Bible questions, these easy-to-follow lessons are the place to start. (*http://www.itiswritten.com/certainty*)
- **Unsealing Daniel's Mysteries:** These studies will help you unravel the mysteries of the book of Daniel as you study it chapter-by-chapter. (*http://www.itiswritten.com/daniel*)

**It Is Written Telecast.** Visit the web archives to find Bible-based messages by Pastor Boonstra in streaming video, podcast and complete scripts. (*http://www.itiswritten.com/tvprogram*)

**It Is Written Store.** You will find many Bible study tools to strengthen your faith and walk with God here. (*http://www.itiswritten.com/store*)

**Blue Letter Bible.** This wonderful online scriptural reference commentary and study tool will help you discover rich lessons from His Word. (*http://www.blueletterbible.org/*)

**Bible Gateway.** A free service for reading, studying and researching the Bible in the language or translation of your choice online. You may also listen to the Bible here. (*http://www.biblegateway.com/*) **Concordances and Dictionaries** (Available at your local Christian Bookstore or online):

The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible by James Strong. This exhaustive research tool is the legendary classic that generations of Bible students have come to depend on for Bible study and research.

Young's Analytical Concordance to the Bible by Robert Young. A standard Biblical concordance, Young's casts all words in the Bible into alphabetical order and arranges them under their respective original words. This helps the reader to analyze more accurately the various uses of the original Hebrew and Greek words. Includes over 300,000 biblical references.

**Smith's Bible Dictionary by William Smith.** A trustworthy classic of Bible scholarship, this Bible dictionary defines thousands of biblical words, and is packed with essential information such as maps and chronology tables.

#### **Computer Software** (Available online or at Christian bookstores):

**e-Sword** is a feature rich and user friendly electronic Bible that makes the study of God's Word both enjoyable and enriching. This software is free for the downloading and is available in many different languages. (*http://www. e-sword.net/*)

**QuickVerse** is an electronic Bible study tool with many features to help you in your study of God's Word. This software is available in PC or Mac versions.

**PC Study Bible** is simple enough for anyone to use, but provides power tools to aid your study of the Bible.

#### **BIBLE STUDY RESOURCES**

## Getting More from Your Bible

Have you ever decided to read the entire Bible cover to cover—only to give up after a couple weeks? Or perhaps when you read the Bible, you don't seem to get much out of it. Well, don't be hard on yourself, because you're not alone! *The Sword of the Spirit* will provide you with practical tips to help you get more out of your Bible, remember what you've learned, and apply it to your daily life. Also included are easy to follow Bible reading plans that can help you navigate the entire Word of God. It's Bible reading made simple. Why not begin today?

Pastor Shawn Boonstra is speaker/director for It Is Written Television. He appears weekly on the telecast and has shared the Word of God with millions around the world. To find your local It Is Written station, watch the program online, and explore free online Bible studies, visit www.itiswritten.com





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