

Let's Read the Bible!
Read the Bible in One Year
No 4 in our occasional series

Three main ways to read the Bible in one year.

[1] **'Pick and Choose'** whatever takes your mood. Look at the contents section and pick a book to read until you've read them all. However the books are set out sequentially, and in different types eg history, and prophecy. So e.g. if you read Nehemiah then Daniel then Jeremiah, you would see linkage across the three but you would be working backwards. Nehemiah's focus is restoring Jerusalem after the return from Babylon. Daniel lives in Babylon and mixes history, long-term prophecy, and the promise of Jerusalem being restored, while Jeremiah tells of the fall of Jerusalem, and God's reasons for it.

[2] Read some **chapters a day from the OT, the NT & Psalms/Proverbs every day**. However this also breaks up the storyline. And may make seeing the connections across scripture more difficult. But many like this way of reading the Bible in a year. If you want to give it a go, here is a 10 Day sequence for January. It works for you, buying a One Year Bible and having all the passages printed out side by side makes it easier to do.

A 10 Day sample from the NIV 'The Bible In One Year'.

Day	OT	NT	Psalms/Proverbs
Jan 1	Genesis 1:1 to 2:17	Matthew 1:1-25	Psalms 1:1-6
Jan 2	Gen 2:18-4:16	Matt 2:1-18	Ps 2:1-12
Jan 3	Gen 4:17-6:22	Matt 2:19-3:17	Ps 3:1-8
Jan 4	Gen 7:1-9:17	Matt 4:1-22	Proverbs 1:1-7
Jan 5	Gen 9:18-11:9	Matt 4:23-5:20	Ps 4:1-8
Jan 6	Gen 11:10 – 13:18	Matt 5:21-42	Ps 5:1-22

Jan 7	Gen 14:1-16:16	Matt 5:43-6:24	Ps 6:1-10
Jan 8	Gen 17:1-18:33	Matt 6:25-7:23	Proverbs 1:8-19
Jan 9	Gen 19:1 -20:18	Matt 7:24-8:22	Ps 7:1-9
Jan 10	Gen 21:23:20	Matt 8:23-9:13	Ps 7:10-17

Before you read the Old read the New Testament.

This gives three blessings. You get closer to Christ Jesus. You understand what it means to be a Christian. Then when you read the OT you can more easily see its foundation for the New. You can read the NT straight through from Matthew to Revelation, or you could try this possible time order:

Mark [AD 45-60] is probably the first to be compiled. It's an action drama, written to help new Christians especially in Rome – often seen as Peter's memoirs.

Matthew [50-60+] is Mark somewhat abbreviated but with added teaching of Jesus - to keep things to a useable scroll, for books as we know them now did not exist then. He had to leave stuff out if he was to put new stuff in. He wrote to Jewish Christians, and stresses Jesus relationship with the OT background.

Luke [57-60+] is a Gentile and writes for Gentiles. He also is Mark abbreviated plus extra material. He brings out Jesus concern for the lost, the rejected, the downtrodden. But it's also part 1 of 2 - so you could read the Acts [57-62+] next.

John [40-65+] is explicitly written so you may believe. Like all of them it is historically accurate in its details. It's like a Sunday magazine in-depth study compared to the daily news bread of Matthew, Mark and Luke.

Paul's letters are set out in terms of length but he possibly wrote them in this AD time order: 1st & 2nd Thessalonians [50-51]; 1st Corinthians; 1st Timothy [55]; 2 Corinthians & Galatians [56]; Romans & Titus [AD 57]; Philippians, Philemon, Colossians, Ephesians, 2 Timothy [58].

Carry on through to Revelation, and the New Creation. Then read the OT in sequence. The New Creation reveals what God did and why in the OT & in Christ Jesus. And should be the driver of our own hopes.