

January 2023

You will read from three sections of the Bible each day. The Old Testament, New Testament and Proverbs.
 When you have read each section, place a checkmark in the area provided to keep track of your progress.

Date	Old Testament	✓	New Testament	✓	Proverbs	✓
1	Genesis 1-2		Matthew 1		1	
2	Genesis 3-4		Matthew 2		2	
3	Genesis 5-6		Matthew 3		3	
4	Genesis 7-8		Matthew 4		4	
5	Genesis 9-10		Matthew 5		5	
6	Genesis.11-12		Matthew 6		6	
7	Genesis 13-14		Matthew 7		7	
8	Genesis 15-16		Matthew 8		8	
9	Genesis 17-18		Matthew 9		9	
10	Genesis 19-20		Matthew 10		10	
11	Genesis 21-23		Matthew 11		11	
12	Genes 24		Matthew 12		12	
13	Genesis 25-26		Matthew 13		13	
14	Genesis 27-28		Matthew 14		14	
15	Genesis 29-30		Matthew 15		15	
16	Genesis 31		Matthew 16		16	
17	Genesis 32-33		Matthew 17		17	
18	Genesis 34-35		Matthew 18		18	
19	Genesis 36-37		Matthew 19		19	
20	Genesis 38		Matthew 20		20	
21	Genesis 39-41		Matthew 21		21	
22	Genesis 42		Matthew 22		22	
23	Genesis 43-44		Matthew 23		23	
24	Genesis 45-46		Matthew 24		24	
25	Genesis 47-48		Matthew 25		25	
26	Genesis 49-50		Matthew 26		26	
27	Exodus 1-2		Matthew 27		27	
28	Exodus 3-4		Matthew 28		28	
29	Exodus 5-6		Mark 1		29	
30	Exodus 7-8		Mark 2		30	
31	Exodus 9-10		Mark 3		31	

Books in January

GENESIS

Genesis is the first book of the Bible. It's part of what we call the Pentateuch, which is the first 5 books of the Bible. You may also have heard them called the Torah, which is what they call them in the Hebrew Bible. They are also known as the books of the Law. Genesis, along with the other 4 books of the Pentateuch, are all attributed to Moses. You'll be well versed in who Moses is by the time we read through these first 5 books, even though, Moses wasn't even born until many years after the events of Genesis. We won't read about the birth of Moses until the book of Exodus, chapter 2! So, although Moses is traditionally recognized as the writer of Genesis (and the rest of the Pentateuch), it is unknown if he wrote Genesis from divine revelation (God spoke to him), or he had historical documents handed down over generations.

The Bible being available to us shows the importance of handing down records to future generations. And we will see in Exodus 13:19 that Moses took the bones of Joseph to the promised land as he had commanded. Joseph had died more than 300 years prior to this point. No one keeps bones that long without some explanation as to why! History was, and still is vitally important!

When was Genesis written?

Interesting enough, the years of the Old Testament actually go down as they move forward. Genesis was written sometime between the Exodus out of Egypt in 1446 BC and the conquest into the Promised Land in 1406 BC. [BC stands for "Before Christ", or you may see some dates written BCE, which stands for "Before the Common Era"]. This date can be figured out from a reference made in 1 Kings 6:1, which says that the time was the 4th year of Solomon's reign as king, and 480 years *after* the exodus from Egypt. Historically we know that King Solomon reigned in 970 BC, so if it was the 4th year of his reign, then the Exodus from Egypt was in 1446 BC.

Who was Genesis written for?

The book of Genesis was written specifically for the Israelites, God's chosen people to preserve their history. After 400 years of slavery in Egypt it would have been incredibly important to have their history documented. Whether Moses used his influence while he was living as a son of Pharaoh in Egypt, or records from the people of Israel were given to him, he took the opportunity to document the history for God's people, so they did not lose their history!

Genesis is important because not only does it preserve the history of Israel, but it directs their view to who God really is. A loving father who gave them a promise, to be their God, and they would be His people!

What stories will we read in Genesis?

You've probably heard a few of them. The story of Creation of the world, the plants and animals, and the first human beings. The "Fall" of man, or the first sin. The flood. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Joseph and his coat of many colors, his time spent in prison and his promotion to authority in Egypt. And of course, the story of God's plan for redemption.

Books in January

EXODUS

Exodus is a book of Redemption, Salvation, and Covenant. God carries His people out of slavery in Egypt and leads them through the wilderness towards the land he has promised their ancestors. In Genesis 32:28, after wrestling all night, Jacob is told, *"Your name will no longer be Jacob," the man told him. "From now on you will be called Israel, because you have fought with God and with men and have won."*

So, this man, Israel, would become a great nation of people. His 12 sons would become the 12 tribes of Israel and over their more than 400 years in Egypt until the Lord delivered them, they grew in number. Exodus 12:37 says that 600,000 men, plus women and children left Egypt. That is a LOT of people. Potentially up to 2 Million people.

When was Exodus written?

Sometime between 1450 - 1400 B.C.

Sometime during the time that Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years, Moses took the time to write out this information. As we will see in this book, there are moments of covenant with God that must be written to ensure the covenant is followed by the people of Israel.

Who was Exodus written for?

The book of Exodus was written specifically for the Israelites, God's chosen people to preserve their history. But that doesn't mean there isn't anything for us in there. In fact, the book of Exodus is full of wonder and awe of who God is. The lengths God went to in order to see his people freed from slavery should give us the ultimate hope that He will not leave us in our struggles, but that the heart of our God is to set us free and make a lasting covenant with us!

What stories will we read in Exodus?

Moses and the burning bush. The plagues of Egypt. Passover. Moses saying, "Let My People Go!" The parting of the Red Sea. Exodus is full of stories of the power of God. Miracles and Wonders are at every turn! We also get the 10 commandments, the Tabernacle to worship God, the Covenant God makes with his people!

Books in January

MATTHEW

Matthew is the first book of New Testament. It is one of 4 books of the Bible that we call “The Gospels”. When we talk about The Gospel, we are talking about the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. These 4 books, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are the four books in the Bible that record almost everything we know about Jesus. These were the books written by eyewitnesses, or people who spoke with them during the first century AD.

Gospel comes from the Old English word godspell, which is a translation of the Greek word euangelion. Euangelion means “good tidings” or “good news”, which eventually became the term for the “good news about Jesus Christ...” the Gospel!

Although each of the 4 gospel books cover the life and ministry of Jesus, they each have their own emphasis, feel and influence because each was written by a different person. Matthew was written to present clear evidence that Jesus is the Messiah that the prophets spoke about in the Old Testament; Jesus is the Savior they had been waiting for.

When was Matthew written?

Matthew was written approximately between AD 50 - AD 65 and most likely in the city of Antioch.

Who was Matthew written for?

Matthew was written for the Jews. Its purpose was to show them that Jesus was the Messiah they had been waiting for. The book is written with a mountain of “context clues” that show Matthew really wanted his audience to see Christ in relationship to Jewish tradition, which would have had little relevance for non-jewish people.

What stories will we read in Matthew?

The stories you see in Matthew are all centered around the life of Jesus. First, his birth. The story of the Magi from the East (wisemen) is only found in the book of Matthew, the other 3 gospels do not make mention of it.

We will see a lot of the life and ministry of Jesus throughout the book of Matthew. His baptism by John the Baptist. The temptation in the wilderness. The “Sermon on the Mount” which includes many popular and well known teachings such as the Beatitudes, the Lord’s Prayer, “Do not judge others, and you will not be judged.” The Golden Rule and many more.

You will also ready many miracles, signs and wonders done by Jesus throughout his ministry here on earth. And of course the end of Matthew is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, ultimately proving that He is God, and He is the Messiah of the Jewish people, and the Savior that the World was waiting for!

Books in January

MARK

Mark is the second of what we call “The Gospels”. It is also one of 3 books called the “Synoptic Gospels”. The first three books of the New Testament, Matthew, Mark & Luke, are called the synoptic Gospels because, although they each have their unique qualities, they share many of the same accounts of Christ, often shared in the same order and with the same wording. It is because of their similar perspectives on Jesus’ ministry, that together they are known as the synoptic gospels. The word synoptic comes from the greek word *synoptikos*, which means “able to be seen together.”

The book of Mark was written by the man himself, Mark, or John Mark. Interesting enough Mark was not one of the twelve disciples of Jesus, but he did accompany Paul on his first missionary journey!

When was Mark written?

There is actually some debate over when Mark was written. Some believe that Matthew and Luke were written first and that Mark actually pulled from those books, while others believe that Mark wrote first and Matthew and Luke drew from his writings.

Who was Mark written for?

Mark is written for the believers to present the person, work and teachings of Jesus. It’s believed that in writing this book to the Christian in Rome, that as they were going through extreme persecution, thousands were being martyred in Rome, that the church met in the Catacombs, the graveyard of the martyrs themselves. They didn’t do this to hide, but to remind themselves of the risk they were taking. And that is where the gospel account would have been read to them. Think of how much impact that would bring, as you are surrounded by those who have literally given their lives for the sake of Christ, hearing the stories of Christ himself.

What stories will we read in Mark?

As one of the three synoptic gospels, the stories you see in Mark will be close if not almost identical to the book of Matthew and are all centered around the life of Jesus.

We will see a lot of the life and ministry of Jesus throughout the book of Mark. His baptism by John the Baptist. The temptation in the wilderness.

Again, much like Matthew you will also ready many miracles, signs and wonders done by Jesus throughout his ministry here on earth. The great thing about the synoptic gospels is that we see the story and the ministry of Jesus through different people’s perspectives. Each unique, yet confirming of each other!

Books in January

PROVERBS

Proverbs is a book of Wisdom! The great part about the book of Proverbs is that it's got 31 chapters, which lends itself perfectly to having a single proverb read each day of the month. Of course there will be some months you end on the 30th (or the 28th in February), and you can choose whether or not you read the 31st proverb, or not. The book of Proverbs is almost entirely composed by King Solomon, who is considered to be the wisest man who ever lived.

When was Proverbs written?

Solomon wrote the proverbs sometime during the middle of his life, which would have been 990 - 931 BC, and was fully edited by Hezekiah's men around 700 BC. Two other writers, Agur and Lemuel also contributed to the writing of Proverbs, with just one chapter each, however, some scholars actually believe that Agur and Lemuel are nicknames for Solomon, making him the writer of the entire book! Either way, the book of Proverbs is full of wisdom and knowledge for us to gain.

Who was Proverbs written for?

The book of Proverbs was written as a sort of "teacher's manual" for how to live a wise life day-by-day. Solomon wrote it for the young men of Israel, that they could learn early on what it meant to live a wisdom filled life. It's full of warnings, but also direction and insight into how we should conduct ourselves and shape our lives.

A key verse in the book of Proverbs, that really sums it up quite nicely, is Proverbs 1:5, *Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance.*

That's what we want, isn't it? To increase in learning, and to understand, so that what we read and what we learn can give us good guidance for our lives! So really, Even though it was originally written for the young people of Israel, Proverbs is a book perfectly suited for you, and for me, to lead us into a life of wisdom and understanding!

What stories will we read in Proverbs?

You won't find so many stories in the book of Proverbs, but you will most likely recognize some of the things that King Solomon says.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom...

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

A cheerful heart is good medicine...

Pride goes before the fall...