

**March 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	Leviticus 20 - 21		Luke 16		1	
2	Leviticus 22 - 23:22		Luke 17		2	
3	Leviticus 23:23 - 24:23		Luke 18		3	
4	Leviticus 25		Luke 19		4	
5	Leviticus 26		Luke 20		5	
6	Leviticus 27		Luke 21		6	
7	Numbers 1 - 2		Luke 22		7	
8	Numbers 3		Luke 23		8	
9	Numbers 4		Luke 24		9	
10	Numbers 5 - 6		John 1		10	
11	Numbers 7		John 2		11	
12	Numbers 8 - 9		John 3		12	
13	Numbers 10		John 4		13	
14	Numbers 11 - 12		John 5		14	
15	Numbers 13		John 6		15	
16	Numbers 14		John 7		16	
17	Numbers 15		John 8		17	
18	Numbers 16		John 9		18	
19	Numbers 17 - 18		John 10		19	
20	Numbers 19 - 20		John 11		20	
21	Numbers 21		John 12		21	
22	Numbers 22		John 13		22	
23	Numbers 23 - 24		John 14		23	
24	Numbers 25 - 26:50		John 15		24	
25	Numbers 26:51 - 28:15		John 16		25	
26	Numbers 28:16 - 29		John 17		26	
27	Numbers 30 - 31		John 18		27	
28	Numbers 32		John 19		28	
29	Numbers 33 - 34		John 20		29	
30	Numbers 35 - 36		John 21		30	
31	Deuteronomy 1		Acts 1		31	

Books in March

## Numbers

**14 Months** have passed since Israel walked out of Egypt as a free people. They've made the journey from Egypt to Mt. Sinai, (not the hospital downtown!), received the 10 commandments and are about to travel another 200 miles or so to at the beginning of Numbers, God says, "From the whole community of Israel, record the names of all the warriors by their clans and families. List all the men twenty years old or older who are able to go to war." Hence the name "Numbers". This was the first census of Israel. But that's not all this book covers.

Numbers is where we will read the story of the people of God reaching the promised land, but when they send spies in to check it out, fear rises up, the old 'slavery' mentality kicks in, and they cower from the opportunity to take the Promised Land. As a result of their inability to leave the slavery mentality behind, and embrace the victors mentality through the promise of God, God sends them into the wilderness for 40 years. They wander, aimlessly for this time with one real purpose. All who would not believe died in the wilderness, and by the time they took the promised land as their own, it was only those who were not of the warrior age of 20 back when the spies first went in to check it out.

### When was Numbers written?

Numbers would have been written around the end of Israel's 40 years of wandering, but before Moses dies, because traditionally the writing of the book is attributed to Moses. So that puts the date of Numbers being written most likely around 1406-1400 BC.

### Who was Numbers written for?

Of course the census was very important. So this was written for historical records for the people of Israel. But also, the younger generation needed to remember what happened to their parents and grandparents when they didn't believe God would really give them the Promised Land. Numbers serves as a reminder to leave the slavery of our past behind, and put our faith in God who will bring us into the Promised Land, no matter the obstacles!

### What stories will we read in Numbers?

We have been singing from Numbers quite a bit this past year. Numbers 6:24-26 says, *The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.*

Books in March

## DEUTERONOMY

**Deuteronomy** is the fifth and final book attributed to Moses. And in the final chapter of the book we will actually read of the death of Moses, which was most likely added by Joshua. It is not unreasonable to think Moses wrote the book because it says so in the book. In Deuteronomy 31:9 it says, "So Moses wrote this entire body of instruction in a book and gave it to the priests..."

The book of Deuteronomy was written to remind the people of what God had done and to encourage them to continue to dedicate, or rededicate their lives to Him.

### When was Deuteronomy written?

Approximately 1406 BC, after 40 years of wandering in the desert, and just before the Israelites enter into the promised land.

### Who was Deuteronomy written for?

In Greek, the word Deuteronomy means "second law", and in fact this book is the second giving of the law to the people of Israel but to the future generation that was about to move into the promised land. The first time Israel got to the border of the Promised Land they decided they were not going to follow the Lord's instruction to take the land as their own. As a result the entire older generation, anyone of the age 20 or older died in the wilderness. So, after 40 years of wandering in the desert, the new generation, now 40-60 years old with their own families are standing at the same point their parents and grandparents stood at, asking the same question, "Will God be with us?"

Deuteronomy is a great reminder to the people of who God is and that He IS for them. The history of their nation, the instructions of God and a reminder of who He is was exactly what this new generation needed.

### What stories will we read in Deuteronomy?

The most notable story in the book of Deuteronomy is most likely the death of Moses. Moses has been the leader of Israel for more than 40 years as they made their transition out of Egypt, spent time at Mount Sinai and then wandered in the wilderness as their entire population shifted from one generation to the next. Moses was not permitted to enter the Promised Land, and so leadership gets handed down to Joshua, who as you may remember is one of only 2 of the spies sent into the promised land who came back encouraging the people of Israel to follow God.

The Ten Commandments, which were originally given in Exodus, are also fully restated in Deuteronomy 5.

Books in March

## John

**John** is the 4th book of the gospel accounts in the New Testament. But John is not considered a “synoptic” gospel, but rather stands on its own. The Synoptic Gospels are called that because they take a common view, but John focuses primarily on Jesus’ reason for coming to earth. So, although the other books are filled with parables and miracles, John is not.

### When was John written?

Although not directly attributed in the book, John is most widely recognized as being written by the apostle John “the disciple whom Jesus loved”, the brother of James, son of Zebedee. He most likely wrote this book in the later part of his life, between 80AD - 98AD when he died.

### Who was John written for?

John's focus is on proving conclusively that Jesus is the Son of God and that all who believe in him will have eternal life. This puts the audience as anyone searching for a savior, and anyone who confesses to follow Jesus. This book would have been of highest value in the early church as the community of Christians grew and they needed a firm foundation of the salvation of Jesus Christ, who is the Son of God.

### What stories will we read in John?

Probably the most famous verse in the Bible, from a conversation that Jesus has with a man named Nicodemus, “*For God so loved the world that He gave his only son, that whoever believes in him will not perish, but have eternal life.*” John 3:16.

Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd in this book.

Books in March

## ACTS

**How do you** continue a story that starts with Jesus birth, life, eventual death and then his glorious resurrection? You tell the story of the people who took that story, which wasn't just a story, but was the place of their rebirth, now as Followers of Christ, Christians, and how they lived, how they shared that story and how it transformed the world! That is the book of Acts!

Written by Luke, who also wrote the gospel of Luke, some scholars say that the order of the New Testament would be better served with Acts being right after Luke because it really is a sequel to the first book he wrote.

Luke ends with the Ascension of Jesus, but right before He leaves, he tells his disciples, "And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven." And sure enough in Acts 1:4 Luke reminds us of that statement, reminds us of the Ascension and then starts the story in Chapter 2 with the Holy Spirit coming, just as Jesus had promised!

### When was Acts written?

Acts was most likely written about 62-80 AD.

### Who was Acts written for?

Acts 1:1 starts with, "In my first book I told you, Theophilus..."

This is also how the book of Luke starts, with an invitation to Theophilus to read through the evidence and research that Luke has found on the life and validity of Jesus Christ. In fact, in Luke 1 he says, "Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write an accurate account for you, most honorable Theophilus, so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught." And in Acts 1, He says, During the forty days after he [Jesus] suffered and died, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive."

This shows clearly that the books written by Luke, although to a specific person, Theophilus, are written to all of us to show the truth and validity of Jesus Christ as a man on this earth, and the truth and validity of the resurrected Jesus, who did not stay dead in a grave, but rose again, proving once and for all that He is the savior of the world!

### What stories will we read in Acts?

Acts is the story of the early church. The coming of the Holy Spirit, the preaching of Peter that saw more than 3000 converts to the Christian faith, miracles, signs, wonders. Acts shows us the first martyred Christian, a man named Stephen who was stoned to death. It also marks the transition from Judaism as a religion for Jews, to Christianity, the salvation of Jesus Christ for all man kind.