

2023 BIBLE READING PLAN

June 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	2 Samuel 4-6		1 Timothy 1 - 3		1	
2	2 Samuel 7 - 9		1 Timothy 4 - 6		2	
3	2 Samuel 10 - 12:12		2 Timothy 1 - 2		3	
4	2 Samuel 12:13 - 13		2 Timothy 3 - 4		4	
5	2 Samuel 14 - 15		Titus 1 - 3		5	
6	2 Samuel 16 - 17		Philemon		6	
7	2 Samuel 18 - 19:30		Hebrews 1 - 2		7	
8	2 Samuel 19:31 - 21		Hebrews 3 - 5		8	
9	2 Samuel 22 - 23:17		Hebrews 6 - 7		9	
10	2 Samuel 23:18 - 24		Hebrews 8 - 9		10	
11	1 Kings 1 - 2:12		Hebrews 10		11	
12	1 Kings 2:13 - 3		Hebrews 11		12	
13	1 Kings 4 - 5		Hebrews 12 - 13		13	
14	1 Kings 6 - 7		James 1 - 2		14	
15	1 Kings 8		James 3 - 5		15	
16	1 Kings 9 - 10		1 Peter 1 - 2		16	
17	1 Kings 11 - 12:21		1 Peter 3 - 4		17	
18	1 Kings 12:22 - 13		1 Peter 5		18	
19	1 Kings 14 - 15		2 Peter 1 - 2		19	
20	1 Kings 16 - 17		2 Peter 3		20	
21	1 Kings 18 - 19		1 John 1 - 2		21	
22	1 Kings 20 - 21		1 John 3 - 4		22	
23	1 Kings 22		1 John 5, 2 John, 3 John		23	
24	2 Kings 1 - 2		Jude		24	
25	2 Kings 3 - 4		Revelation 1		25	
26	2 Kings 5 - 6		Revelation 2		26	
27	2 Kings 7 - 8		Revelation 3 - 5		27	
28	2 Kings 9 - 10:17		Revelation 6 - 8		28	
29	2 Kings 10:18 - 12		Revelation 9 - 11		29	
30	2 Kings 13 - 14		Revelation 12 - 14		30	

Books in June

1 & 2 Kings

Although we don't exactly know who wrote these books, it's possible that they were written by the prophet Jeremiah, or a group of prophets. The story in 1st and 2nd Kings is one of tragedy and triumph, of heartache and betrayal, redemption and faithfulness. And ultimately, the stories these books tell show us the stark difference between those who follow the ways of God, and those who choose not to. Many would think, if it's the Bible, it must mean these are godly stories. But sometimes these stories show us more of our humanity than of God's nature. In fact, and this might be hard to believe, but after the reign of King Solomon the nation of Israel splits apart! By 1 Kings 12 the story takes a dramatic turn and the kingdom of Israel falls apart into two pieces, the Northern tribes of Israel and the nation of Judah. And as hard as it is to understand, after Solomon, there are thirty-nine kings between those two nations and scripture says that only eight of them were "good". So many turned away from the things of God to do their own thing, follow other cultures and religions and gods. But we can learn from this how important it is to keep our lives dedicated to the Lord!

When were 1 & 2 Kings written?

What's more important than when these books were written is actually the time period they were written about! These two books cover more than 400 years of Israelite history. And although they are called 1 & 2 Kings, they aren't about the first or second king of Israel, but starts with the 3rd king, Solomon, the son of King David!

Who were 1 & 2 Kings written for?

Originally written for the people of Israel, probably both as a historical record, but also, if it is true that the prophets wrote these books, it would have also been to remind Israel of their failures and successes. That they should always choose to follow God, and not turn away from their promise to follow Him and His ways. And as a result, we too get to take in the story, the history of this group of people, and learn from their mistakes and what they did right.

What kind of important scriptures are in 1 & 2 Kings?

"As for you, if you will follow me with integrity and godliness, as David your father did, obeying all my commands, decrees, and regulations, then I will establish the throne of your dynasty over Israel forever. For I made this promise to your father, David: 'One of your descendants will always sit on the throne of Israel.'" 1 Kings 9:4-5

"Again and again the Lord had sent his prophets and seers to warn both Israel and Judah: 'Turn from all your evil ways. Obey my commands and decrees - the entire law that I commanded your ancestors to obey, and that I gave you through my servants the prophets.' But the Israelites would not listen. They were as stubborn as their ancestors who had refused to believe in the Lord their God." 2 Kings 17:13-14

Books in June

1 & 2 Timothy

Paul the apostle wrote both 1 & 2 Timothy. And right away at the beginning of these letters, Paul says, *"I am writing to Timothy, my true son in the faith."* And *"I am writing to Timothy, my dear son."* Timothy was a traveling companion of Paul's, and he was also his assistance on his missionary journeys. And as they travel together, Paul is teaching and leading Timothy to a point where in 1 Timothy, Paul, who has gone on to Macedonia, asks Timothy to remain in Ephesus in order to deal with the false teachers that are trying to get into the church there.

When were 1 & 2 Timothy written?

It's estimated that the first of these letters was written in AD 64, and the second probably closer to AD 66 - 67.

Who were 1 & 2 Timothy written for?

One of the interesting things to see is how these books are written, especially 1 Timothy, which multiple times underscores both Paul's authority but also that of Timothy. This would lead us to assume that this letter was not just meant for Timothy to read, but also that he should read it to the church. So, although Timothy is the one Paul is writing the letter to, the intended readers are the whole church. At least for the first letter.

These books, along with the book of Titus, are often called the Pastoral Epistles, because they contain pastoral advice on how to deal with problems that are arising in the churches, both in Ephesus and in Crete. And the three books have a good amount in common with each other.

And, as the whole Bible has become, this is important reading for us as the church today. There is insight, wisdom and encouragement to be found in their words!

What kind of important scriptures are in 1 & 2 Timothy?

Probably one of the most quoted scriptures from 1 Timothy would be, *"Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young! Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity."* 1 Timothy 4:12. This is an incredible encouragement, regardless of age, to never forget that our own lives of following Jesus are meant to be an encouragement to others we are in community with! And to list one from 2 Timothy 2:15, *"Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth."* That doesn't mean we get into "works" mentality, thinking we have to prove ourselves by good behavior, but that our behavior, and our study and our following of Jesus often 'proves' what we believe. Jesus said we would know a tree by it's fruit. Meaning, if you really apply these things they will change your life!

Books in June

Titus

Paul writes this third of what are often called the Pastoral Epistles. Titus is the name of a person, the one whom Paul is writing this letter to. He writes in Titus 1:4, *I am writing to Titus, my true son in the faith that we share.*

When was Titus written?

This book was probably written around the same time as 1 Timothy, approximately AD 64.

Who was Titus written for?

Paul was a pretty dynamic and influential leader. But you can't be everywhere at once, can you? So, he sends people to various churches to encourage them and continue teaching them, and sometimes to deal with some issues. Just like the books written to Timothy, this is what we call a Pastoral Epistle, encouragement and instruction on how to deal with certain things that are arising in the church. Sometimes things need to be set right. Sometimes people need to be told to stop talking a certain way because it is contrary to the gospel that we preach. How do we handle those things? Well, Paul writes these letters to those he has taught and released into ministry to help them in these things.

He says to Titus in Titus 1:5, *I left you on the island of Crete so you could complete our work there and appoint elders in each town as I instructed you.*

He has given instruction, taught them what to do, and left them to do it!

Books in June

Philemon

Paul wrote this one too! This one is another personal message, but meant to be read to the entire church. Talk about getting things done! Paul would write these letters with a specific purpose to teach a specific person, but also knew that the encouragement would be needed on a larger scale simply because we all go through things. We all encounter discouragement, or problems with other people. Issues in our lives come up! Philemon was a wealthy christian from Colossae and a church was meeting in his home.

When was Philemon written?

Most likely written around AC 62, while Paul was in prison.

Who was Philemon written for?

This book is for Philemon, the church meeting in his home, and for the nearly 2000 years of Christians who have read it since! Apparently, during Paul's three-year ministry in Ephesus (A.D. 52-55), Philemon heard the gospel and was saved. He began serving Christ in the Colossian community. He opened his home for a group of Christians to meet there regularly.

At some point, Onesimus, one of Philemon's bondservants, fled to Rome. Before he left, he possibly had stolen money or property from Philemon. While in Rome, Onesimus came into contact with Paul and became a Christian. As he grew in Christ, he was a great help to Paul during Paul's imprisonment.

As much as Paul would like to have retained the services of Onesimus, Paul knew that Onesimus's wrongdoing against his master Philemon needed to be addressed. He wrote this letter urging Philemon to appreciate the transformation that had occurred in Onesimus. Paul asked Philemon to receive Onesimus back not merely as a bondservant but as a "beloved brother" (v. 16).

It is difficult to know if Paul sought Onesimus's full freedom. It is clear, however, that he was seeking a transformed relationship between bondservant and master. This new relationship would defy all of the ingrained status distinctions of the surrounding Greek and Roman culture. It would have been difficult for the kind of servitude practiced by Rome to survive in the atmosphere of Christian love exemplified by the letter.

Books in June

Hebrews

The writer of Hebrews is unknown. Although there has been much speculation as to who it was written by. Maybe Paul, or Luke, Barnabas, Apollos, Silas, Philip, Priscilla, or someone else. We just don't know. The book itself does not suggest any names of authorship. Nevertheless, Hebrews is an incredible book that is full of wisdom and encouragement.

When was Hebrews written?

Another mystery. But it is presumed that it happened prior to the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem, which happened in AD 70. This is because ceremonies and religious sacrifices are mentioned in the book, but the destruction of the temple is not.

Who was Hebrews written for?

Much like the writings of Paul, the writer of Hebrews is encouraging followers of Jesus to not lose, or forsake their great salvation that Jesus had brought. To hold on to the faith and to the true rest found in Christ, and to encourage others to do the same. Jesus Christ is greater than any angel, priest or old covenant practice!

This book, or letter, or really, it seems like a collection of sermons, were written to encourage Jewish believers in Jesus to endure, and also to warn them not to abandon their faith.

There are some incredible verses in the book of Hebrews, but I would say my favorite is Hebrews 1:3, *The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and the sustains everything by the mighty power of his command.*

Jesus is the very image, fully and 100% the expressed character and fullness of God. When we see Jesus, we have seen God!

Books in June

James

This book is written by James, who is one of Jesus' brothers. He was also a leader in the church in Jerusalem.

When was James written?

This book was most likely written between AD 40 - 49, before the "Jerusalem Council" in AD 50.

Who was James written for?

James was writing this to first-century Jewish Christians that were currently living in Gentile (non Jewish) communities, outside of Judea.

Being a Christian during this time period was not easy. Is it ever? But, there were many 'religions' and many other beliefs, and for the most part, nobody minded that you had a different faith, until you said that Jesus is the only way. That often starts persecution, and brings challenges that some people just aren't prepared for. So, James is writing this letter to believers who were enduring persecution and living in poverty. They were in social and spiritual conflict. And as a result many had given up, and were living in a worldly manner. James corrects them and challenges them to seek God's wisdom to work out these problems.

James 1:22 is one of the most powerful and challenging verses for a Christian to read. *"But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves!"* Can anything be more challenging than that? First, it challenges us to actually be reading scripture, and second it challenges us to apply that scripture to our lives. Because the reality is, if we aren't doing that, we're just fooling ourselves, thinking that reading scripture is good enough. God gives us instruction and direction so our lives will be full in Him.

Books in June

1 & 2 Peter

Both letters start with the same phrase, "This letter is from Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ..." So it's safe to assume that these letters were in fact written by Peter.

When were these books written?

1 Peter was most likely written between AD 62 - 64, and 2 Peter roughly 3 years later, and it is believed that they were probably written in Rome.

Who were 1 & 2 Peter written for?

Right away Peter says in his first letter that he is writing to, "God's chosen people who are living as foreigners in the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia." But by his second letter he isn't addressing it to anyone in particular and simply says, "I am writing to you who share the same precious faith we have."

Either way, both of these letters are written to help those who read it to persevere in faith while suffering persecution, and to encourage them toward the hope of our eternal salvation in Christ. And despite opposition, God's grace in Christ truly transforms and empowers Christians to live righteously. 2 Peter focuses on this and becomes a foundation for the whole letter.

And for us today, the same is true of both of these themes, to persevere through hardship, and to live our lives for Christ and experience true transformation and be empowered to live righteously before God.

These trials will show that your faith is genuine... So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world. 1 Peter 1:7

By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. 2 Peter 1:3

Books in June

1, 2 & 3 John

It is believed that John the apostle, whom scripture calls “The one Jesus loved”, is the writer of the gospel of John, 1, 2, & 3 John, and the book of Revelation.

When were these books written?

These three books were probably written between 85 - early 90s, and were written from Ephesus, where it is believed he had moved with Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Who was James written for?

John’s audience is several Gentile (non-jewish) communities of Christians. Each letter has a varying theme. The first letter, also the longest, focuses on bringing Christians back to the three basics of the Christian life: true doctrine, obedient living, and faithful devotion. The second letter, a mere 13 verses, invites the read to live in God’s love according to the truth of Jesus Christ. And the third and final letter, again, very short, only 15 verses long, like many of the other books of the New Testament, is an encouragement to remain faithful despite opposition.

This is real love - not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.... We love each other because he loved us first. 1 John 4:10, 19

Love means doing what God has commanded us, and he has commanded us to love one another, just as you heard from the beginning. 2 John 1:6

Dear friend, I hope all is well with you and that you are as healthy in body as you are strong in spirit. 3 John 1:2

Books in June

Jude

Another brother of Jesus, and of course, also of James, Jude is the writer of Jude.

When was Jude written?

Probably written in the mid AD 60s.

Who was Jude written for?

This is another short one, only 25 verses. Jude was most likely written to Jewish Christians because of the letter's apparent Jewish perspective, but could also have been written to a mixture of Jewish and Gentile readers where they were familiar with Jewish tradition.

Jude warns against following false teachers who have infiltrated the church and are distorting the one true faith. Right away, from the first century and beyond, the church has been threatened by heresy and false teaching, and as Christians we must always be alert and aware of this possibility, and to stand guard against it. This is why it is so important to know scripture for ourselves, have a personal relationship with God, and to be pursuing the things of Jesus in our own lives, so that we aren't just relying on what other people say, and that when someone says something that seems off, we both know to question it in our own understanding, and we feel the leading of the Holy Spirit in those moments as well.

Many people may say many things, and not all are true or right.

Dear friends, I had been eagerly planning to write to you about the salvation we all share. But now I find that I must write about something else, bring you to defend the faith that God has entrusted once for all time to his holy people. Jude 1:3

Books in June

Revelation

No book carries more mystery, and possibly controversy, than the book of Revelation. Is it about the end times? Has it happened already? Has some of it happened? Has none of it happened? Is it literal or metaphor? Many theories exist, and many theologies have been developed around this book. But regardless of what the outcome of those things are, the content and revealing nature of this book hold an incredible experience of the full identity of Jesus Christ, and can give us both warning and hope.

The apostle John wrote this book, along with the gospel of John, and the three letters, 1, 2 & 3 John.

When was Revelation written?

Revelation was probably written about AD 95 while John was on the prison island of Patmos.

Who was Revelation written for?

John writes specifically to the seven churches of Asia that are listed in the book. He says so right at the beginning, This letter is from John to the seven churches in the province of Asia.

The churches by location are: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.

But, of course, this book is also written to us, the church, believers who follow Jesus Christ.

The word revelation is taken from the Greek word apocalypses, which means, “disclosure” or “unveiling”. Revelation is truly an unveiling. An unveiling of spiritual warfare. An unveiling of our humanity. An unveiling of our failures and struggles with following Jesus. But ultimately, an unveiling of the King of Kings, Jesus Christ!

God blesses the one who reads the words of this prophecy to the church, and he blesses all who listen to its message and obey what it says, for the time is near. Revelation 1:3