

2023 BIBLE READING PLAN

August 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 Chronicles 34 - 35		Mark 1		1	
2	2 Chronicles 36 - Ezra 1		Mark 2 - 3:12		2	
3	Ezra 2 - 3		Mark 3:13 - 4: 29		3	
4	Ezra 4 - 6		Mark 4:30 - 5:43		4	
5	Ezra 7 - 8		Mark 6:1 - 6:44		5	
6	Ezra 9 - 10		Mark 6:45 - 7:37		6	
7	Nehemiah 1 - 3		Mark 8		7	
8	Nehemiah 4 - 6		Mark 9		8	
9	Nehemiah 7 - 8		Mark 10		9	
10	Nehemiah 9 - 10		Mark 11		10	
11	Nehemiah 11 - 12		Mark 12		11	
12	Nehemiah 13		Mark 13:1 - 14:11		12	
13	Esther 1 - 3		Mark 14:12 - 14:65		13	
14	Esther 4 - 7		Mark 14:66 - 15:47		14	
15	Esther 8 - 10		Mark 16		15	
16	Job 1 - 4		Luke 1:1 - 1:56		16	
17	Job 5 - 8		Luke 1:57 - 2:20		17	
18	Job 9 - 12		Luke 2:21 - 3:20		18	
19	Job 13 - 15		Luke 3:21 - 4:13		19	
20	Job 16 - 19		Luke 4:14 - 5:16		20	
21	Job 20 - 22		Luke 5:17 - 6:16		21	
22	Job 23 - 27		Luke 6:17 - 6:49		22	
23	Job 28 - 30		Luke 7		23	
24	Job 31 - 33		Luke 8		24	
25	Job 34 - 36		Luke 9		25	
26	Job 37 - 39		Luke 10		26	
27	Job 40 - 42		Luke 11		27	
28	Psalms 1 - 7		Luke 12		28	
29	Psalms 8 - 14		Luke 13		29	
30	Psalms 15 - 18		Luke 14		30	
31	Psalms 19 - 22		Luke 15		31	

NT Chronological Reading Plan

Date	Matthew	✓	Mark	✓	Luke	✓	John	✓
1	11:1-30				7:18-35			
2					7:36-50, 8:1-3			
2	12:22-50		3:20-35		11:14-32, 8:19-21			
3	13:1-23		4:1-25		8:19-21, 8:4-15			
4			4:26-29					
4	13:24-52		4:30-34		13:18-21			
5	8:23-34		4:35-41, 5:1-20		8:22-39			
6	9:18-34		5:21-43		9:40-56			
7	13:53-58		6:1-6		4:16-30			
7	9:35-38, 10:1-15		6:6-13		9:1-6			
8	10:16-42							
8	14:3-12		6:17-29					
9	14:1-2, 13-21		6:14-16, 30-44		9:7-17		6:1-15	
10	14:22-36		6:45-56				6:16-40	
11							6:41-71	
12	15:1-20		7:1-23					
13	15:21-39, 16:1-4		7:24-37, 8:1-13					
14	16:5-28		8:14-38, 9:1		9:18-27			
15	17:1-20		9:2-29		9:28-43			
16	17:22-27		9:30-32		9:43-45			
16	18:1-10		9:33-50		9:46-50			
17	18:12-35				7:1-9			
17	19:1-2		10:1		9:51-56			
17	8:18-22				9:57-62			
18							7:10-53, 8:1-30	
19							8:31-59	
19					10:1-37			
20					10:38 - 12:12			
21					12:13-12:59			
22					13:1-17		9:1-41	
23							10:1-42	
23					13:22-30			
23	23:37-39				13:31-35			
24					14:1 - 15:32			
25					16:1 - 17:10			
26							11:1-57	
27					17:11 - 18:14			
27	19:3-12		10:2-12					
28	19:13 - 20:16		10:13-31		18:15-30			
29	20:17-34		10:32-52		18:31-43			
30					19:1-27			
30	26:6-13		14:3-9				12:1-11	
31	21:1-17		11:1-11, 15-19		19:28-48		12:12-19	

Books in August

Ezra

Although the author of the book of Ezra isn't stated within the pages of the book, it is assumed that the book was written by Ezra. Ezra was a priest, a scribe, and a great leader. His name means "help", and his whole life was dedicated to serving God and God's people.

After reading through 1 & 2 Kings and 1 & 2 Chronicles, we can sometimes be left asking, "Did anyone follow God's ways really well?" Of course some of the kings did, but so many are described as following the pagan gods of their neighbors. Ezra not only knew God's word - he also believed and obeyed it! And although he wasn't a King, he prayed for the people of Israel to turn their lives back to God. And his humility helped bring the people back to God, at least during his lifetime.

When was Ezra written?

It's actually unclear when Ezra was written. The first 6 chapters talk about events that occurred long before Ezra was alive. Ezra 7:27 - 9:15 is written in the first person, so we have to assume that it was written during Ezra's time if we are to assume he wrote it. But then other areas are written in third person viewpoint about things that happened during Ezra's time alive. So it's hard to determine exactly when it was written, but some scholars point to about 450 BC.

What is the purpose of this book?

This book was written for the exiles of Israel who were returning from captivity. It's theme was to encourage faithfulness to the Lord, both in keeping the law of Moses and in their worship of God. Ezra stresses the importance of rebuilding the Temple because of his emphasis on worship.

As the people are returning from exile in Babylon they are facing some threats. There are people now living in their land. The last time they lived there they were not doing well. They were not following God. They were worshipping idols and doing what was evil. So not only are they returning to find their homes and land not like it was, they have to change how they live and follow God again. They have their work cut out for them on many different fronts.

Books in August

Nehemiah

This book is really the story of a man named Nehemiah and how he was instrumental in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem after the exiles had returned from captivity.

Ezra and Nehemiah were once considered one book together as they are about the same time period. We assume Nehemiah wrote this book, it's written in the first person, and it's also believed that Ezra helped edit the writing.

When was Nehemiah written?

Approximately 445 - 432 BC.

Who was the book written for?

The book of Nehemiah is written for the exiles that had returned from captivity. Just like the book of Ezra. It was to record the history of the third return to Jerusalem after captivity, telling how the walls were rebuilt and the people were renewed in their faith. It also is an encouragement for God's people of His protection for them.

The two books, Ezra and Nehemiah tell the story from different perspectives. Ezra, "a scribe skilled in the Law of Moses" called the returning people back to covenant loyalty and obedience to the law, while Nehemiah rebuilt the city walls so that the community could be protected from enemies who might take advantage of them.

What kind of important scriptures are in Nehemiah?

So... the wall was finished - just fifty-two days after we had begun. When our enemies and the surrounding nations heard about it, they were frightened and humiliated. They realized this work had been done with the help of our God!

Nehemiah 6:15-16

Books in August

Esther

Although we don't know exactly who wrote it, Esther 9:29 might suggest that Mordecai, Esther's cousin is the one who wrote the book.

This is a fantastic story about a Jewish girl becoming the queen of Persia and in doing so saves her people, Israel, from a plot to absolutely destroy them! Because of this story a new festival for the Jewish people arises, the Feast of Purim, to ensure that no one ever forgets the incredible way God saved his people yet again!

When was Esther written?

When the book was written really matters less than when the story is about. The story is set in Susa, one of the Persian capitals, during the reign of King Ahasuerus, better known by his Greek name, Xerxes I. Some Jews had returned to Jerusalem, where they enjoyed a reasonable amount of control over their own affairs. But others, like Esther and Mordecai, were still in exile. And as the minority, the Jews were viewed with suspicion and sometimes faced threats to their very existence.

Who was the book written for?

This book is written to the people of Israel as both history and memorial. To always remember what God has done for them, and give reason to worship. This also puts into writing why they would celebrate this new festival, the Feast of Purim.

What kind of important scriptures are in Esther?

"If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?"

Esther 4:14

Books in August

Job

Job is such an interesting book! It essentially asks the question, “Can God be trusted? Is he good and just in his rule of the world?” And it shows that sometimes the reasons for human suffering go unanswered to those going through it. God seems close and yet somehow far in the pages of Job. And Job likewise seems to be complaining and yet putting his entire life in the palm of a just God. Job sees how God is so intricately involved in humanity, and yet, sometimes seems so elusive.

And like us, sometimes, Job’s friends don’t offer real help. They say they have come to “comfort” him, but Job calls them “miserable comforters” who would console him with “empty nothings”. His friends viewpoints range from an oversimplified faith to thinking that every trouble is divine punishment because we must have done something wrong, so they keep trying to get Job to confess his sin, yet Job doesn’t see he’s done anything wrong.

Whatever the case may be. Whatever we are going through. The book of Job illustrates that we don’t need to full understand God’s will in order to be faithful to Him, even in the midst of suffering.

When was Job written?

Another interesting topic. It’s unclear when Job was written, but some believe that the events recorded in it happened during the time of the patriarchs, which would be somewhere around 2000 - 1800 BC.

Who was the book written for?

Although there’s no real audience indicated in the book of Job, the story is something most of humanity can relate to, either in a small or big way.

Books in August

Psalms

Psalms isn't a story, or a history, or a concise book of teachings or thoughts, and yet, it is all of those things. It includes truth, prophecy, lament, anger, sadness, frustration, encouragement and so much more. It is a book of poetry, a book of song, a book of the heart.

As for the author, well that's a big one. David wrote 73 of them, Asaph wrote 12, the descendants of Korah wrote 11, Solomon wrote 2, Human (with the descendants of Korah), Ethan, and Moses each wrote 1, and another 49 of them are declared anonymous. Two of the anonymous ones are actually given attribution to David in the New Testament.

The psalm contained prophecy of the coming Messiah and give hope for the here and now to those who read them. And for us today, the same is true. Both that the Messiah has come, and we know Him, and that God is faithful and true.

When were the Psalms written?

Between the time of Moses (1440 BC) through the time of the Babylonian captivity (586 BC), the psalms span nearly 900 years of human history in its pages. Every time period has its poets, and those who feel deeply in their heart. And the writings contained in this book offer great comfort and reassurance of God's faithfulness.

Who was the book written for?

Originally the Psalms are written for Israel, the people of God, yet, through history many have taken solace in them. Many, including those who would not say they are believers in God, whether or not they are Christians, can quote, and have found comfort in Psalm 23. Probably one of the most quoted passages of scripture Psalm 23 is a powerful reminded of how much God loves humanity.

What kind of important scriptures are in Esther?

The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need. He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name.

Psalm 23:1-3