

Background

Reading through the Bible is a great opportunity to get to know God's Word. Doing it together provides accountability and support. The important thing is that we begin where we are and keep going. This year I would like to offer an abbreviated, abridged approach in reading the Old Testament. A couple of things need to be kept in mind. Spiritual formation, transformation, and growth come from being in God's Word. The goal is not just to read it, but to allow its truth to penetrate our lives, to change us and mold us. That is what I mean by "Getting into God's Word, so His Word gets into us."

One, all of the Old Testament is God's Word. Every part is important, meaningful and significant. At the same time some of the parts are harder to connect with and therefore can be less interesting. My goal is to keep us going so we make it through. I have taken some liberty to help keep us focused. Yes, it is my opinion, but my goal to help us know the story of God's people and not get bogged down is a lot of detail. We will read through all of the New Testament.

Second, the goal is to read about two chapters a day, about 10-15 minutes. Keeping it short and getting it done is better than long passages and long time and not making it through.

Third, when we read it is good to look for principles God taught His people to live by, expectation, and times of success and failure. What does God want us to learn, understand, realize or apply to our lives are themes we should be looking for.

Fourth, my goal is to provide some brief commentary and context at the beginning of each book so we can keep the story in perspective.

Fifth, it is good to have a reading partner to keep us focused, accountable and perhaps to discuss parts we do not understand.

Enjoy your reading and time with God.

Dr. Ralph Gibson, Pastor

MARCH READING PLAN



**"Getting into God's Word,
so God's Word gets into us."**

Daily Reading for March

This month we finish Deuteronomy. We finish the story of the Hebrew people coming out of Egypt and the end of Moses life and leadership. As we begin the book of Joshua, the people of Israel begin to move into the land promised to the by God and we see the struggles and faith journey they experienced.

Especially noteworthy is the first chapter of Joshua as Moses blesses Joshua. Great words and counsel for all of us to follow. We read of the conquest of Jericho, the lessons from Ai and other battles that God fought for the Hebrews. We will read of the division of the land for each of the twelve tribes and the final declaration of Joshua to challenge the people to follow the Lord as he himself declares his own allegiance to God.

Judges enters a new period in the story of the Hebrew people as judges rule the land. Three of the most famous include Deborah, Gideon and Samson.

The events of Joshua and Judges take place around 1200 - 1400 BC. Precise dating is difficult. It could go to 1100 BC for Judges as well.

During this time we begin to see the nation and people of Israel both follow God and disobey God. It is an important time period to read and understand as the people seek to understand their faith and also see the consequences of disobedience. The examples of obedience should encourage and challenge us to be obedience and faithful to God and His Word.

As we read look for what is God trying to emphasis in this passage? In what ways does this apply to me? What principles do I need to take from this? What is God trying to say to me and my life?

March 1	Deuteronomy 17-18	_____
2	19-20	_____
3	21-22	_____
4	23-24	_____
5	25-26	_____
6	27-28	_____
7	29-30	_____
8	31-32	_____
9	33-34	_____
10	Joshua 1-2	_____
11	3-4	_____
12	5-6	_____
13	7-8	_____
14	9-10	_____
15	11-12	_____
16	13-14	_____
17	15-16	_____
19	17-18	_____
20	19-20	_____
21	21-22	_____
22	23-24	_____
23	Judges 1-2	_____
24	3-4	_____
25	5-6	_____
26	7-8	_____
27	9-10	_____
28	11-12	_____
29	13-14	_____
30	15-16	_____
31	17-18	_____

