

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.

Second, the goal is to read about 2 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.

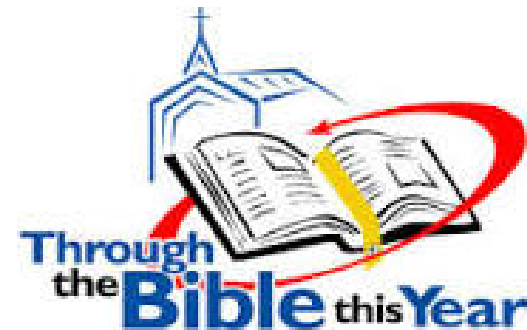
Enjoy your reading and time with God.

Dr. Ralph Gibson, Pastor

November

READING

PLAN



**“Getting into God’s Word,
so God’s Word gets into us.”**

Daily Reading for November

As we read Isaiah we begin the last major section of the Old Testament, the Prophets. It is important to realize that these books God is calling Israel, God's people, back to follow Him and His ways. The people individually and as a nation had strayed, disobeyed and wandered from God. God therefore disciplined them by sending the armies of Babylon, Assyria and Persia to destroy, capture, punish and remove Israel from their homeland. The prophets are calling the people back to faithful obedience to God. In them we find the message of hope, the promise of salvation in promised Messiah, the plan of human history, and applications necessary today.

Ezekiel is God's prophet, voice, to Judah while in captivity in Babylon. This book is filled with images and visions of hope for restoration of God's people historically and eternal hope through the coming messiah historically and eternally.

With Daniel we begin the Minor Prophets. They are minor because they are shorter, not less important. I find them a fun read.

Daniel is the great story and witness of obedience to God in the midst of cultural pressure. Evident of God's protection. Daniel contains a great message and vision for Israel's history and future history.

Hosea is an allegory, story with a meaning, on the nation of Israel. Israel wandered from God, faced judgment and will return to God.

Joel offers hope for a brighter future.

My goal is to keep the readings short and fit them into our lives. It is never too late to start. So begin today where we are and join the journey through the Scriptures. They apply to the time period of approximately 800 – 500 BC in general.

As we read look for what is God trying to emphasize 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?

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| November 1 | Ezekiel 16-17 | God's Love for Jerusalem |
| 2 | 18-19 | A False Proverb Refuted |
| 3 | 20-21 | Rebellion of Israel |
| 4 | 22-23 | Sins of Jerusalem |
| 5 | 24-25 | Symbol of the Cooking Pot |
| 6 | 26-27 | Proclamation against Tyre |
| 7 | 28-29 | Proclamation against King of Tyre |
| 8 | 30-31 | Egypt & her allies will fall |
| 9 | 32-33 | Lamentation for Pharaoh & Egypt |
| 10 | 34-35 | Irresponsible Shepherds |
| 11 | 36-37 | Blessing on Israel |
| 12 | 38-39 | Gog & Allies attack Israel |
| 13 | 40-41 | A New City, A New Temple |
| 14 | 42-43 | The Chambers for the Priests |
| 15 | 44-45 | East Gate and the Prince |
| 16 | 46-48 | The Manner of Worship |
| 17 | Daniel 1-2 | Daniel & Friends obey God |
| 18 | 3-4 | The Image of Gold |
| 19 | 5-6 | Belshazzar's Feast |
| 20 | 7-8 | Vision of Four Beasts |
| 21 | 9-10 | Daniel's Prayer for the People |
| 22 | 11-12 | Warring Kings of North & South |
| 23 | Hosea 1-2 | The Family of Hosea |
| 24 | 3-4 | Israel Will Return to God |
| 25 | 5-6 | Impending Judgment on Israel & Judah |
| 26 | 7-8 | Apostasy of Israel |
| 27 | 9-10 | Judgment of Israel's Sin |
| 28 | 11-12 | God's Continuing Love for Israel |
| 29 | 13-14 | Relentless Judgment on Israel |
| 30 | Joel 1-3 | The Day of the Lord |

