

## 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 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

# *October* **READING** **PLAN**



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

## Daily Reading for October

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.

The book of Isaiah describes judgement and hope on the nation of Judah for their sins and disobedience. Think about our own nation and individual lives as well. The second half declares God's comfort, hope and encouragement both then and through a coming messiah. Isaiah story fits during the time of King Uzziah found in 2 Kings 14-15 and 2 Chronicles 26.

Lamentation is a reflection by Jeremiah & the people at the loss of their county, culture and customs to Babylon who came to capture and destroy them. Even though Judah had sinned against God and God used Babylon to discipline Judah, sadness, despair and grief remained in their hearts. And yet at the end, Jeremiah found hope in God.

We introduce Ezekiel at the end of the month. 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.

Some of this is difficult reading that is why my goal is to keep the readings short and fit them into our lives. Keeping the readings short means we do not get so far behind if we miss a day and it takes less time each day. 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?**

<b>October 1</b>	Jeremiah 9-10
2	11-12 The Broken Covenant
3	13-14 Symbol of the Linen Sash
4	15-16 The Lord will not relent
5	17-18 Judah's Sin & Punishment
6	19-20 The Sign of the Broken Flask
7	21-22 Jerusalem's doom is sealed
8	23-24 The Branch of Righteousness
9	25-26 Seventy years of desolation
10	27-28 Symbol of bond and yokes
11	29-30 Jeremiahs letter to the captives
12	31-32 The remnant of Israel saved
13	33-34 Excellence of the restored nation
14	35-36 The obedient Rechabites
15	37-38 Zedekiah's Vain Hope
16	39-40 The Fall of Jerusalem
17	41-42 Insurrection again Gedaliah
18	43-44 Jeremiah taken to Egypt
19	45-46 Assurance to Baruch
20	47-48 Judgment on Philistia
21	49-50 Judgment on Ammon
22	51-52 The Utter destruction of Babylon
23	<b>Lamentations</b> 1-2 Jerusalem in Affliction
24	3-5 The Prophets anguish and hope
25	<b>Ezekiel</b> 1-3 Ezekiel's Vision of God
26	4-5 The siege of Jerusalem portrayed
27	6-7 Judgment on Idolatrous Israel
28	8-9 Abominations in the Temple
29	10-11 Glory departs from the Temple
30	12-13 Judah's captivity portrayed
31	14-15 Idolatry will be punished

Questions, impressions, lessons and applications.

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“A chapter a day keeps the Devil away.”