

The term: "Bible" simply means: "Book." It is significant that every valid Bible translation gives its name as "The Bible." In other words, the Bible is "The Book" of books. It is God's book to the universe. With this in view, we strongly encourage and even plead with our readers to get into the Bible. Here are some proven methods to help you get into your Bible reading:

Read the Entire Bible in ONE Year

- Average three chapters in the Old Testament and one chapter in the New Testament per day ... this is about 20 – 25 minutes of reading.

Read just the New Testament every Year

- Average one chapter of the New Testament per day ... this is about five (5) minutes of reading per day.

A Practical Way to Read the New Testament or the Entire Bible All the Way Through

One practical way to finish what you begin is to pick up where you left off. Many people make the mistake of starting in Matthew 1 or Genesis 1 and read along for a week or two and before they have developed the habit of regular reading, they quit. This is normal so you shouldn't feel condemned for stopping. The problem comes after several months or longer when you make a personal resolution to start over again by reading Matthew 1 again. Then the same thing happens again and you quit, but this time more discouraged than the last time. Unfortunately, this cycle usually continues indefinitely and many don't finish reading the entire New Testament or the entire Bible.

We suggest that you begin in Matthew and read on a regular basis. (Check out the suggested schedules above.) If you quit reading, which may be inevitable due to circumstances or not being able to solidify a regular reading habit, then place your bookmark **AT THE PLACE YOU LAST READ**. Do NOT start over with Mathew 1 or Genesis 1 the next time you decide to read, but pick up where you left off the previous time. I know many saints who have had the quitting syndrome, but then took this advice and finished the entire Bible or the New Testament!

Read With a Partner

- This is a great help to develop the habit of regular reading and just to plain enjoy God's word with another person.

Why Read the Entire Bible?

The Bible has 66 books written by approximately forty (40) authors over a period of close to 3500 years. It is the most reliable historic document of its time. The Bible is written in a progressive way, meaning that as time goes on, the divine revelation builds upon what was written previously. In other words, to read only the New Testament will not allow one to fully understand the context of the verses studied. The Old Testament lays a needed foundation for the New Testament. Therefore, to apprehend the truth and knowledge of any book of the Bible requires that we have the proper base of reading the entire book. Here is the Bible in an overview:

Synopsis of New Testament Books

Below you will find short synopses of the 27 books of the New Testament. Also note that a few books have been highlighted and underlined in order to give you a further introduction. Click on those books for more insight into the meaning and/or significance of that New Testament book.

The New Testament (27 books) ~ AD 35 to AD 90

- **The Lord's Birth** (~6 – 4 BC)
- **The Lord's Death** (~29 – 30 AD)
- **The Gospels** (4 books)
 - **Matthew** (written ~37 – 40 AD) – written by Matthew (Levi) to the Jews in general; *the Gospel of the Kingdom proving that Jesus Christ is the King-Savior.*
 - **Mark** (written ~67 – 70 AD) – written by John Mark with many references to Jewish customs, festivals to enlighten Gentiles (Romans); *the Gospel of God proving that Jesus Christ is the Servant or Slave-Savior.*
 - **Luke** (written ~60 AD) – written by Luke, the physician, an associate of the apostle Paul; *the Gospel of the forgiveness of sins proving that Jesus Christ is the Man-Savior.*
 - **John** (written ~85 - 90 AD) – written by John Zebedee, brother of James; *the Gospel of Life proving that Jesus is the God-Savior coming as life to propagate Himself.*

- **The Acts** (1 book)
 - **The Acts of the Apostles** (written ~67 – 68 AD) – written by Luke, the physician, after his gospel record; *the propagation of the resurrected Christ in His ascension, by the Spirit, through the disciples, for the producing of the churches - the kingdom of God.*
- **The Pauline Epistles** (13 or 14 books)
 - **Romans** (written ~60 AD) – written on his 3rd ministry journey to saints in Rome; *the gospel of God - to make sinners sons of God to constitute the Body of Christ, which is expressed as the local churches.*
 - **1 Corinthians** (written ~55 – 59 AD) – written to the saints in Corinth towards the end of Paul's three-year stay in Ephesus; *Christ and His cross as the solution to all problems in the church.*
 - **2 Corinthians** (written ~60 AD) – written prior to the book of Romans to the saints in Corinth as a follow up and enrichment; *the New Testament ministry and its ministers and their endurance and joy in suffering for the sake of Christ and His Body.*

The "Heart" of the Divine Revelation (4 books)

- **Galatians** (written ~54 AD) – written by Paul to a several churches in the region of Galatia during his 1.5 year stay in Corinth as part of his 2nd ministry journey; *Christ replacing the law and being versus religion and tradition.*
- **Ephesians** (written ~64 AD) – written during Paul's 1st imprisonment in Rome to the saints in Ephesus; *the church - the mystery of Christ, the Body of Christ as the fullness of Christ, becoming the fullness of God.*
- **Philippians** (written ~64 AD) – written during Paul's 1st imprisonment in Rome to the saints in Philippi; *experiencing Christ - taking Christ as our living, pattern, goal, power, and secret.*
- **Colossians** (written ~64 AD) – written during Paul's 1st imprisonment in Rome to the saints in Colossae; *Christ - the all-inclusive One, having the first place in all things as the mystery and embodiment of God, as the Head and constituent of the church, as the allotted portion, life, constituent, and hope of the saints, and as the Body of all positive things.*

The Remainder of Paul's Epistles

- **1 Thessalonians** (written ~54 AD) – written during his 1.5 year stay in Corinth as part of his 2nd ministry journey; *a holy life for the church life - serving the living God, conducting ourselves in a holy manner, and waiting for the Lord's coming.*
 - **2 Thessalonians** (written ~54 AD) – written during his 1.5 year stay in Corinth as part of his 2nd ministry journey; *encouragement and correction concerning the holy life for the church life.*
 - **1 Timothy** (written ~65 AD) – written after his first imprisonment; *God's economy (household administration and stewardship) concerning the church.*
 - **2 Timothy** (written ~67 AD) – written during his 2nd imprisonment in Rome to his spiritual son, Timothy; *inoculation against the decline of the church.*
 - **Titus** (written ~65 AD) – written to Titus in Nicopolis after his first imprisonment; *the maintenance of order in the church.*
 - **Philemon** (written ~64 AD) – written to Philemon et al toward the end of his first imprisonment in Rome; *an illustration of the believers' equal status in the New Man.*
 - **Hebrews** (written ~67 AD) – the author is unknown, but a significant number of scholars attribute its writing to Paul. *Christ being superior to Judaism and everything related to it, and the New Covenant which He consummated being better than the Old Covenant*
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- **The Destruction of the city of Jerusalem (AD 67 – 70)**
 - **Other Epistles (7 books)**
 - **James** (written ~50 AD) – written by the Lord Jesus' flesh brother, James, probably in Jerusalem to the twelve tribes in dispersion; *practical Christian perfection.*
 - **1 Peter** (written ~64 AD) – written from Babylon to dispersed Jewish believers prior to Paul's martyrdom; *the Christian life under the government of God.*
 - **2 Peter** (written ~69 AD) – written after Paul's martyrdom, probably at the onset of the destruction of Jerusalem; *the divine provision and the divine government.*
 - **1 John** (written ~85 – 90 AD) – written to all believers possibly after John's exile on Patmos while in Ephesus; *the fellowship of the divine life, emphasizing love for God and the saints.*
 - **2 John** (written ~85 – 90 AD) – *prohibition against participation in heresy.*

Bible Reading

- **3 John** (written ~85 – 90 AD) – *encouragement to the fellow workers in the truth*
- **Jude** (written ~69 AD) – written by Jude, another flesh brother of the Lord Jesus (also James) seemingly to Jewish believers; *contending for the faith.*
- **The Revelation** (1 book)
 - **The Revelation of John** (written ~85 – 90 AD) – written by John while exiled on Patmos to the seven churches in Asia; *Christ as the center of God's administration according to God's eternal economy/plan.*

Key Memory Verses

The following is a listing of crucial verses in the New Testament which can and should be memorized. Of course, all the verses in the New Testament are God's inspired Word, but focusing on the key verses throughout the New Testament helps us know the true context, proper application and healthy interpretation of the Scriptures. (The list is NOT all-inclusive. In particular, we did not include many verses from the gospel that may be redundant. Rather, we included key verses that have spiritual and life-changing significance.)

Matthew

1:1, 17-18, 21-23 2:4-6 3:1-3, 11-12, 15-17 4:3-10, 15-19
5:3-11, 13-18, 20, 44-45, 48 6:1, 3-4, 6, 9-13, 19-24, 31-33
7:1-2, 6-8, 13-14, 21-25 8:19-22 9:11-13, 36-38
10:16, 32-33, 37-38 11:11-12, 25-30 12:18-21, 25-26, 28, 39-40
13:23, 31-33, 41-48 14:15-16, 29-31 15:2-3, 7-9, 14, 26-28
16:13-19, 20-27 17:2, 5, 22-23 18:3-4, 15-20
19:4-6, 21, 24, 29-30 20:17-19, 26-28 21:42-44
22:12-14, 31-32, 37-40, 43-45 23:9-12, 37-39
24:38-39, 42, 45-47 25:21, 26-27 26:7, 12-13, 26-28, 38-39, 63-64
27:34-35, 37, 45-46, 51-52 28:5-6, 18-20

Mark

16:15-16, 19

Luke

1:46-47, 80 2:10-14, 30, 52 4:1, 13, 18-19 10:34, 37 12:49-50
15:1-32 16:9-10, 26, 31 17:32 19:12-27 23:40-43 24:27, 30-32, 39, 47

John

1:1-6, 9-18, 23, 29-34, 51 2:15-17, 19-21
3:3-8, 14-19, 29-30, 34-35 4:13-14, 23-24, 34-36
5:17-20, 30, 39-40 6:27-29, 35, 53-57, 63, 68
7:37-39 8:12, 28-29, 32, 36, 44, 57-58 9:39-41
10:7-11, 14-18, 27-30 11:25-26 12:23-26, 31-33, 49-50
13:13-14, 34-35 14:1-6, 9-11, 15-20, 23-27 15:1-8, 15-16, 26
16:7-13, 21 17:1-5, 8, 11, 17-24 18:36
19:28, 30, 34, 36-37 20:17, 19-22, 30-31 21:18-19, 21-22, 25

Acts

1:8 2:21, 31-36, 42, 46-47 3:14-15, 19-20 4:12, 32
5:29-32, 42 6:7 7:44 8:31 12:24 13:1-4, 33-38 14:23
20:7, 28 24:15-16 26:18-19 28:31

Romans

1:1-5, 9 16-18, 20-21, 25, 28 2:1, 4
3:9-12, 18-25 4:16-18, 20-25
5:1-5, 8-13, 17-21 6:4-6, 22-23
7:4-6, 18, 20 8:1-4, 6, 9-11, 13-16, 22-23, 26-30 9:4-5, 22-24
10:9-13, 17 11:24-25, 29, 36 12:1-5, 11
13:14 14:1-3, 10-12, 17-19 15:5-7, 16 16:19-21, 7-13, 21, 25-27

1 Corinthians

1:2, 9-13, 18, 23-25 2:2-5, 9-11, 14 3:6-7, 9-16, 22-23
4:15, 20 5:6-8 6:9-12, 17, 19-20 7:20, 24, 40 8:1-2
9:19-27 10:1-4, 11-13, 17, 23 11:23-29 12:3-6, 12-13, 24-25
13:4-6, 13 14:3, 5, 26 15:3-4, 27-28, 42-45, 58 16:13

2 Corinthians

1:1-4, 12, 20-22 2:13-17 3:2-6, 16-18 4:1-12, 16-18
5:10, 14-21 6:2-4 7:10 8:9 9:6-11 10:3-5 11:2 12:9-10
13:14

Galatians

1:1-6, 11-12, 15-16 2:16, 19-21 3:1-5, 10-14, 16, 23-29 4:3-7, 19
5:1, 4-6, 13-26 6:1-3, 7-10, 12-18

Ephesians

1:1-23 2:1-22 3:1-21 4:1-32 5:1-33 6:1-24

Philippians

1:1-11, 19-21, 25-29 2:1-17, 20-22 3:2-3, 7-17, 20-21
4:5-13, 17-19, 23

Bible Reading

Colossians

1:3-6, 8-29 2:2-3, 6-17, 19-20 3:1-4, 9-17, 23-25 4:2-6

1 Thessalonians

1:3-5 2:7, 11, 20 3:12-13 4:9-10, 13-18 5:9-10, 16-23

2 Thessalonians

1:10-12 2:13-17 3:1, 5, 18

1 Timothy

1:1-5, 11-19 2:1-6 3:15-16 4:7, 9-10, 13-16

2 Timothy

1:6-7, 10-14 2:2-8, 15, 21-22 3:16-17 4:7-8, 22

Titus

1:12, 5, 9 2:11-14 3:4-8

Hebrews

1:1-14 2:1-18 3:1-14 4:2, 8-16 5:4-6, 12-14 6:1-8, 11-15, 17-20
7:1-3, 16, 18-19, 22-26 8:1-2, 5-6, 10-12
9:2-5, 11-12, 14-15, 22-24, 26-28 10:10, 12, 14, 19-26, 29-31, 34-36, 39 11:1-3, 6, 9-10,
16, 39-40 12:1-3, 6-7, 10-11, 14-16, 22-24, 28-29
13:8-9, 12-16, 20-21

1 Peter

1:2-5, 8-11, 13-19, 22-23 2:1-10, 12, 21-25 3:1, 7-8, 15-18
4:1-2, 10, 17-19 5:1-4, 6-8, 10-11

2 Peter

1:3-12, 17-21 3:9, 11-13, 15-16, 18

1 John

1:1-10 2:1-29 3:1-24 4:1-21 5:1-21

2 John

1:2-3, 6

Jude

1:3, 17, 20-21, 24-25

Revelation

1:1-20 2:1-29 3:1-22 21:1-2, 9-24 22:1-5, 16-17, 21

Synopsis of Old Testament

The Old Testament (39 books) ~1500 B.C. to 400 B.C.

- The **Pentateuch** written entirely by Moses ~15th century B.C. (5 books)
 - **Genesis** - *God created, Satan corrupted, man fell, and Jehovah promised to save*
 - **Exodus** - *Christ is the redemption, salvation, and supply of God's people and the means for them to worship and serve God so that in Him they may be built up with God together for them and God to meet, communicate and dwell mutually [Israel's captivity in Egypt; God leading them out of Egypt using the ten great plagues; Israel beginning their journey to the promised land which should have taken an 11 days journey; Israel sentenced to 40 years in the wilderness where all would die except Caleb and Joshua]*
 - **Leviticus** - *Christ is everything in the fellowship, service, and life of God's redeemed people [The major sacrifices and ordinances to worship God and to maintain and restore fellowship with God and His people are laid out for Israel]*
 - **Numbers** - *Christ is the meaning of life, the testimony, the center of God's people, and the Leader, the Way, and the Goal of their journey and fighting [Wandering in the wilderness for 40 years]*
 - **Deuteronomy** - *Christ is the Instructor and Leader of the people of God that they may be able to enter in the Heavenly territory and participate in His riches [A respoken of God's law and ordinances as Israel journeys in the wilderness and comes to the entrance of the promised land]*
- The **Historical** books (12 books)
 - **Joshua** - *Israel's occupying and possessing the good land for the carrying out of God's economy*
 - **Judges** - *Israel's forsaking God, suffering defeat by their enemies, and becoming rotten ... yet God continues His faithful, loving, salvation in Israel's seemingly hopeless condition*
 - **Ruth** (~1322 - 1312 B.C.) - *A complete prefigure of the Gentile sinners' being brought, with Israel, God's elect into the divine inheritance through the redemption of Christ in their union with Him [Ruth, a Moabite, was an outcast to Israel because of incest. After 10 generations she takes the opportunity to be joined to Israel's salvation through Boaz and becomes in the lineage of Christ]*
 - **1 & 2 Samuel** - *The illustrations of the way to enjoy the God-given good land [A history of Israel in the good land with the appointing of their first king, Saul, the rise*

- and fall of the great king David, the rise and fall of Solomon which includes the building of the temple of God, and the remainder of the kings of Israel until the intertestamental period.]*
- **1 & 2 Kings** - *God's governmental dealing in God's economy, with the devastation and ruin of the divine kingship on earth by the kings and the tragic issue of the just dealing of God*
 - **1 & 2 Chronicles** - *A full chronology of God's move in man's history from Adam through Samuel to Israel's return from their captivity, with a presentation of some of the important details of God's dealing with the kings of Judah*
 - **Ezra** (written ~536 - 457 B.C.) - *The return of the children of Israel from their captivity and the rebuilding of the House of God, as the initiation of God's recovery among His elect for His testimony on the earth according to His economy*
 - **Nehemiah** (written ~446 - 434 B.C.) - *The rebuilding of the wall of the city of Jerusalem as a continual recovery among God's elect for His testimony for the accomplishment of His economy*
 - **Esther** (written ~486 - 465 B.C.) - *The very God who chose Israel as His elect becoming a hidden God to them to take care of them secretly and to save them openly, yet in secrecy during their captivity among the Gentile nations*
 - **Reign of King David (~1010 - 1070 B.C.) establishing the kingdom of Israel in peace**
 - **Reign of King Solomon [peace] (~1070 - 930 B.C.) building the Temple of God in Jerusalem**
 - The books of **Poetry** and Songs (5 books)
 - **Job** (contemporary of Abraham) - *The purpose of God's dealing with His holy one in an age of the "knowledge of good and evil"; God comes to Job according to Job's perspective, yet unveils Himself as inward life in a divine, mysterious way that Job only comprehends after the breaking of his outer man through much trial and suffering. [Satan's operation in relation to God's economy is also unveiled]*
 - **Psalms** - *The expressions of the sentiments, feelings, impressions, and experiences of Godly men seeking and contacting God through their praises, prayers, and singing with exultation*
 - **Proverbs** - *Words of wisdom teaching people how to behave and how to build up their character in the human life*

Bible Reading

- **Ecclesiastes** (written ~977 B.C.) - *The teachings of Solomon, showing that the human life in the corrupted world is a vanity, a chasing after the wind and concluding that only God is not vain.*
- **Song of Solomon** - *The history of love in an excellent marriage, revealing the progressive experience of an individual believer's loving fellowship with Christ and also presenting a "type" of the marriage of Christ with His Bride, the people of God.*
- **Babylonian Captivity** (~606 - 536 B.C.)
- **Rebuilding of the Temple** (~536 - 446 B.C.)
- The "Major" **Prophets** (5 books)
 - **Isaiah** (written ~760 - 700 B.C.) - *The salvation of Jehovah through the incarnated, crucified, resurrected, ascended, and coming Christ*
 - **Jeremiah** (written ~629 - 558 B.C.) - *Christ being made the righteousness of Jehovah to God's elect as their center and circumference, in God's dealings with Israel and the nations*
 - **Lamentations** (written ~560 B.C.) - *The expression of Jeremiah's sorrow and love over the Holy City and the holy people of God*
 - **Ezekiel** - *God's appearing to man in glory, His judgment upon both His people and the nations, and His recovery of His chosen people for the building up of a dwelling place as a mutual abode and complete expression for and of Himself*
 - **Daniel** (written ~600 - 535 B.C.) - *The destiny of Israel apportioned out by God - the contents of the seventy weeks [eschatology]. Written during Israel's captivity in Babylon pointing towards the coming of Messiah, the Christ. [Daniel and three companions are God's overcomers in a heathen kingdom among their captive people, Israel]*

The term "major" and "minor" prophets refer mainly to the size of the book. The Major Prophets in general are quite long compared to the Minor Prophets. Daniel, having only 12 chapters, may be included in the Major Prophets because of its importance and scope in the matter of prophesy.

Bible Reading

- The "Minor" **Prophets** (12 books)
 - **Hosea** (written ~785 - 725 B.C.) - *Jehovah as the salvation to the adulterous and apostate Israel in receiving her back and restoring Her*
 - **Joel** (written ~800 B.C.; after the prophet Elisha) - *The devastation of the human government on Israel in four stages and the destruction of Christ over the devastators and His reign among Israel in the restoration*
 - **Amos** (written ~787 B.C.) - *Jehovah's judgments on Israel and the surrounding nations, with the issue of restoration*
 - **Obadiah** (written ~880 B.C. or 587 B.C.) - *Jehovah's dealing with Esau, and Jacob's victory for the Kingdom of Jehovah*
 - **Jonah** (written ~862 B.C.) - *Jehovah's salvation reaching even unto the Gentile city Nineveh*
 - **Micah** (written ~750 - 710 B.C.) - *Jehovah's reproof on Israel and His restoration of Israel*
 - **Nahum** (written ~713 B.C.) - *Jehovah's judgment on Nineveh as the capital of the evil Assyria*
 - **Habakkuk** (written ~626 B.C.) - *The righteous judgment of God first on Israel by the Chaldeans and then on the Chaldeans by the nations*
 - **Zephaniah** (written ~630 B.C.) - *Jehovah's judgment on Israel and on the nations and His salvation to the Gentiles and to Israel*
 - **Haggai** (written ~520 B.C.) - *Jehovah's dealing with the returned captives for the building of His house*
 - **Zechariah** (written ~520 B.C.) - *Jehovah's hearty consolation and promise to His chastised chosen people through the redemption of Christ, who in His humiliation became their suffering companion in their captivity*
 - **Malachi** (written ~400 BC) - *Jehovah's dealing with the sons of Levi (the priests of Israel) and with the sons of Jacob (the people of Israel)*

Key Memory Verses

The following is a listing of crucial verses in the Old Testament which can and should be memorized.

Genesis

1:26-27 2:24 3:15 6:5 11:1 14:18 22:2 50:20

Exodus

3:14 16:21 11:1 14:18 19:6 20:1-17 22:2 23:33 50:20

Leviticus

1:4 2:1 3:1 4:3 5:6 23:1, 3, 5-6, 15-16, 23, 34

Numbers

1:24, 30 5:7 9:11 6:24 14:28-38 16:1-50 22:23

Deuteronomy

4:3 6:4-6 7:6 8:2-11 12:2, 4-6, 11, 13, 18, 21 18:15, 18 31:6

Joshua

1:9 24:15

Judges

1:28 2:3 3:7 17:6 21:25

Ruth

1:16-17

1 Samuel

7:5-7 13:14 15:22 16:7

2 Chronicles

7:14

Ezra

7:6, 9, 28

Nehemiah

8:10

Bible Reading

Esther

4:14

Job

1:21 2:10 3:25 42:5-6, 8

Psalms

1:1-2 2:7, 12 5:3 8:1-9 19:7-11 22:1-31 23:1-6 27:1, 4 36:9 42:1-2, 5
46:10 73:17 89:14 100:1-5 103:1 110:1 119:1, 105 121:1-2 139:14

Proverbs

1:7 3:5-6 4:23 10:19 16:33 20:27 29:18

Ecclesiastes

3:11

Isaiah

5:20 7:14 9:6-7 11:1-5 14:12-15 26:3, 9 35:5-6 45:18 53:1-12 57:15
61:1-2 64:6

Jeremiah

2:13 13:23 15:16 17:9 31:32-34 33:18

Lamentations

3:22-24

Ezekiel

11:19-20 22:30 28:11-15 34:23 36:26-31

Daniel

1:8 3:17-18 9:24-27

Hosea

6:8

Joel

2:25-32

Micah

5:2-5

Bible Reading

Habakkuk

3:17-19

Haggai

1:5-8 2:7

Zechariah

2:8-9 4:6 12:1, 10 13:6-9 14:6-9

Malachi

4:2