

Historical-Redemptive Bible Reading Plan

(adapted from Greg Lanier & Trent Hunter)

Reading through the entire Bible is a worthy goal for every follower of Jesus. The Bible is an amazing collection of God-inspired writing that offers a lifetime of study and meditation leading to spiritual growth and Christ-likeness. Despite being written through different human authors across many centuries the Bible tells one coherent story from beginning to end.

In total, the Bible contains 1,189 chapters of text. **This reading plan selects 247 key chapters which together provide a framework for seeing the complete biblical narrative of Creation—Fall—Redemption—New Creation.** The plan is organized into categories which further subdivide the biblical story for easier understanding. Chapters from the Old and New Testament are strategically paired to highlight the connections between them as well as the connections across ancient Israel, the first-century church and the church today.

1. Creation

The story of the Bible begins with the creation of all things by God.

- Genesis 1 (In the beginning, God)
- Genesis 2 (Adam and Eve)
- Psalm 19 (The heaven's declare)
- Job 38 (Where were you when I..)
- John 1 (In the beginning, Word)
- Colossians 1 (Agency of Christ)
- 2 Corinthians 4 (Light of Christ)
- Hebrews 1 (Agency of Christ)

2. Fall, Original Sin and Judgment

Central to the Christian worldview is the concept of sin entering the world through Adam and Eve. This is the 'problem' for which the rest of the Bible provides the 'solution'.

- Genesis 3 (Eating the fruit)
- Genesis 6 (Judgment of the flood)
- Genesis 9 (New humanity through Noah)
- Psalm 51 (Sinfulness from birth)
- Romans 1 (Downward spiral of sin)
- Romans 5 (Sin/death through Adam)
- Romans 8 (Unwinding the curse)
- 2 Peter 3 (Reflections on the flood)

3. God's Covenant Promise to Abraham

The primary promise that forms the basis of Old Testament history occurs between God and Abraham. By faith - a nation will come through his offspring, a land will be provided for the nation to possess and eventual blessing of all peoples on earth.

- Genesis 12 (Abram's call)
- Genesis 14 (Abram and Melchizedek)
- Genesis 15 ("Abram believed God...")
- Genesis 17 (Circumcision)
- Genesis 22 (Testing of Abraham)
- Matthew 1 (Abraham's lineage to Christ)
- Romans 4 (Abraham the heir of the world)
- Galatians 3 (Justification by faith)
- James 2 (Reflecting on Abraham's testing)
- Hebrews 5 (Christ and Melchizedek)
- Hebrews 7 (Jesus, Abraham, Melchizedek)

4. Promise Continued

God's promise is fulfilled by giving Abraham twelve sons who become the 12 tribes of Israel.

- Genesis 26 (Promise to Isaac)
- Genesis 27 (Jacob-Esau)
- Genesis 32 (Jacob renamed)
- Genesis 49 (Blessings on the 12 sons)
- Genesis 50 (Joseph's kindness to brothers)
- Psalm 105 (Remembering the patriarchs)
- 1 Chronicles 2 (Genealogy)
- Matthew 22 (God of Abraham/Isaac/Jacob)
- Acts 7 (Stephen's 'OT history 101')
- Romans 9 ("Jacob I have loved, but Esau...")
- Galatians 4 ("We are like Isaac")
- Hebrews 11 (Commending the patriarchs)

5. Exodus from Egypt

The exodus from captivity in Egypt is the primary redemptive work in the Old Testament.

- Exodus 2 (Birth of Moses)
- Exodus 3 (Moses encounters God)
- Exodus 12 (Passover instructions)
- Exodus 13 (Flight from Egypt)
- Exodus 14 (Crossing Red Sea)
- Exodus 15 (Worship in the desert)
- Psalm 78 (Remembering the exodus)
- Psalm 136 (Praise for God's deliverance)
- Hosea 11 ("Out of Egypt I called my son")
- Matthew 2 (Jesus' flight to Egypt)
- Matthew 26 (Jesus keeps the Passover)
- 1 Corinthians 5 (Christ is our Passover)
- Jude (Jesus saved the Israelites from Egypt)

6. God's Covenant Law Through Moses

Now out of captivity, God extends his covenant to the nation of Israel and establishes standards for living that includes a sacrificial system to provide for atonement of sins.

- Exodus 19 (Israel at Mt. Sinai)
- Exodus 20 (The 10 Commandments)
- Exodus 24 (Blood of the old covenant)
- Exodus 33 (The tent outside the camp)
- Exodus 34 (Moses' shining face)
- Exodus 40 (God's glory fills the tabernacle)
- Leviticus 16 (Day of Atonement)
- Leviticus 26 (Blessing & discipline)
- Deuteronomy 5 (Covenant re-affirmed)
- Deuteronomy 6 (The greatest command)
- Deuteronomy 10 (What God requires)
- Deuteronomy 16 (Festivals of the people)
- Deuteronomy 28 (Blessings & curses)
- Deuteronomy 29 (Renewing the covenant)
- Deuteronomy 30 (Choose life)
- Psalm 119 (Goodness of God's law)
- Matthew 5 (Fulfilling the law)
- Mark 10 (Referring to 10 Commandments)
- Luke 22 (Blood of the new covenant)
- Romans 10 (Righteousness and law)
- 2 Corinthians 3 (Moses' shining face)
- Galatians 5 (Reassessing law)
- Hebrews 9 (Christ's atonement)

7. Rebellion in the Wilderness

Israel rejects the covenant and falls into a pattern of sin against God resulting in judgment.

- Numbers 11 (Manna and quail)
- Numbers 14 (Rebellion)
- Numbers 20 (Water from the rock)
- Numbers 21 (Bronze serpent lifted up)
- Psalm 95 (“Do not harden your hearts”)
- John 3 (“Son of man lifted up”)
- John 6 (True manna)
- 1 Corinthians 10 (“Rock was Christ”)
- Hebrews 3 (“Do not harden your hearts”)

8. Conquest of the Promised Land

Joshua leads the people into the land that was promised by God to Abraham followed by a period of leadership by the judges.

- Deuteronomy 1 (Preparing to enter)
- Deuteronomy 2 (Final journey)
- Deuteronomy 3 (Moses sees into the land)
- Joshua 1 (Commissioning of Joshua)
- Joshua 5 (Commander of Lord’s army)
- Joshua 6 (Jericho)
- Joshua 24 (Covenant renewal)
- Judges 2 (Summary of period of judges)
- Judges 13 (Birth of Samson)
- Judges 14 (Spirit of the Lord upon Samson)
- Judges 15 (Samson fights Philistines)
- Judges 16 (Samson’s defeat)
- Acts 13 (Recap of Israel’s history)
- Hebrews 4 (Promise of rest still stands)

9. Establishing a King for God’s People

God installs a king to rule Israel on his behalf and to build a temple where his presence will dwell as the central place of worship.

- 1 Samuel 7 (Samuel as judge)
- 1 Samuel 8 (Israel demands a king)
- 1 Samuel 9 (Saul anointed as king)
- 1 Samuel 10 (Saul received as king)
- 1 Samuel 16 (David is anointed)
- 2 Samuel 5 (David rules a united kingdom)
- 2 Samuel 11 (David and Bathsheba)
- 2 Samuel 12 (David’s repentance)
- 1 Chronicles 17 (Covenant with David)
- 1 Chronicles 22 (Temple preparation)
- 2 Chronicles 5 (Solomon completes temple)
- 1 Kings 8 (Solomon dedicates the temple)
- Psalm 2 (God’s royal son)
- Psalm 24 (The King of glory)
- Psalm 89 (Covenant with David)
- Psalm 110 (“Sit at my right hand”)
- Matthew 12 (Jesus > temple > Solomon)
- Luke 1 (Jesus the davidic King)
- Luke 20 (Jesus and Psalm 110)
- Romans 1 (Jesus, of David in the flesh)
- Philippians 2 (Jesus exalted as king)
- Hebrews 12 (Jesus on the throne)
- Revelation 7 (Worship the enthroned lamb)

10. Spiritual Life of the Nation

During the early years as a nation Israel prospers developing psalms and wisdom literature.

- Psalm 1 (Two ways to live)
- Psalm 51 (Repentance for sin)
- Psalm 67 (All will praise God)
- Psalm 72 (Prayer for the king)
- Psalm 118 (“Blessed is he who comes”)
- Proverbs 1 (Avoid the wrong path)
- Proverbs 2 (The worth of wisdom)
- Proverbs 8 (Wisdom’s appeal)
- Ecclesiastes 1 (“Vanity of vanities...”)
- Ecclesiastes 12 (Fear God)
- Song of Songs 1 (Goodness of marital love)

11. Dividing of the Israelite Monarchy

Following the reign of Solomon, the nation splits into a Northern Kingdom (Israel) and Southern Kingdom (Judah) succumbing to patterns of sinfulness.

- 1 Kings 11 (Solomon’s unfaithfulness)
- 1 Kings 12 (Kingdom divided)
- 1 Kings 13 (Judgment on northern king)
- 1 Kings 17 (Elijah announces judgment)
- 1 Kings 18 (Elijah at Mt. Carmel)
- 1 Kings 19 (Elijah encounters the Lord)
- 1 Kings 21 (Evil of King Ahab & Jezebel)
- 2 Chronicles 33 (Sin of King Manasseh)
- 2 Chronicles 34 (Josiah recovers the Law)
- Jeremiah 2 (Jeremiah’s rebuke to Judah)
- Jeremiah 3 (Unfaithfulness & repentance)
- Luke 4 (Remembering Elijah’s ministry)

12. Israel and Judah in Exile

Due to repeated cycles of sin, God hands his people over to conquest and exile. Assyria defeats the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and Babylon captures the Southern Kingdom (Judah).

- 2 Kings 17 (Fall of Israel to Assyria)
- Isaiah 7 (Assyria assails Judah, Immanuel)
- 2 Kings 24 (Fall of Judah to Babylon)
- 2 Kings 25 (Destruction of Jerusalem)
- Micah 1 (Pronouncing judgment of exile)
- Hosea 1 (Warnings to “not-my-people”)
- Hosea 2 (Israel’s adultery rebuked)
- Zephaniah 1 (Punishment from the Lord)
- Ezekiel 11 (God’s glory leaves the temple)
- Matthew 1 (Immanuel fulfilled)
- 1 Peter 2 (Grace to “not-my-people”)

13. Grief and Hope During Exile

During exile the people of Judah are reminded of God’s promise of restoration by the prophets.

- Jeremiah 31 (Loved with everlasting love)
- Lamentations 1 (Mourning over Jerusalem)
- Psalm 44 (Plea for God’s rescue)
- Psalm 69 (Zeal for the temple)
- Jeremiah 25 (Promise of 70 year exile)
- Habakkuk 2 (Faith to endure judgment)
- Daniel 1 (Faithfulness in Babylon)
- Daniel 2 (Babylon to be judged)
- Daniel 9 (Revisiting Jeremiah’s promise)
- John 2 (Zeal for the temple)
- Hebrews 10 (Faith to endure judgment)

14. Partial Restoration From Exile

The Southern Kingdom is freed from Persian rule to return and rebuild the temple. The Northern Kingdom is never fully restored.

- Ezra 1 (Decree of Cyrus)
- Ezra 2 (Exiles who returned)
- Ezra 3 (Temple rebuilding begins)
- Ezra 4 (Opposition to rebuilding)
- Ezra 5 (Rebuilding resumes)
- Ezra 6 (Dedication of the new temple)
- Nehemiah 8 (Public reading of the law)
- Nehemiah 9 (National confession of sin)
- Haggai 1 (Encouragement to rebuild)
- John 4 (Jesus and Samaritan woman)

15. Anticipating A Deliverer

In the writings of the prophets, a future savior-king is pointed toward who will bring deliverance for God's people.

- Psalm 23 (Lord is my shepherd)
- Isaiah 6 ("In the year King Uzziah died")
- Isaiah 9 ("A child is born")
- Isaiah 11 ("Root of Jesse")
- Isaiah 52 (Suffering servant)
- Isaiah 53 (Crushed for our iniquities)
- Jeremiah 23 (Righteous "branch")
- Ezekiel 1 ("Likeness of the glory of God")
- Ezekiel 34 (Shepherd of Israel)
- Ezekiel 37 (Valley of dry bones)
- Micah 5 (Ruler from Bethlehem)
- Zechariah 9 (King on a donkey)
- Daniel 7 ("One like a son of man")
- Matthew 21 (Jesus as king on a donkey)
- Romans 15 ("Root of Jesse")
- John 10 (Jesus the good Shepherd)
- Acts 8 (Who is the suffering servant?)
- Revelation 4 (Throne room glory)
- Revelation 5 ("Root of David")

16. Jesus The Messiah

Following a period of ~400 years after the latest Old Testament writings, Jesus announces the arrival of the Kingdom of God as he fulfills the Old Testament promises about the coming savior-king through his life, death and resurrection.

- Matthew 3 (John the Baptist and Jesus)
- Matthew 27 (Crucifixion of Jesus)
- Matthew 28 (Resurrection, Great Commission)
- Mark 1 (Ministry of Jesus begins)
- Mark 14 (Jesus anointed at Bethany)
- Luke 2 (Birth of Jesus)
- Luke 8 (Jesus as teacher)
- Luke 9 (Peter confesses Jesus as Messiah)
- Luke 23 (Crucified between two criminals)
- Luke 24 (Disciples fully understand)
- John 19 (Crucifixion and burial)
- John 20 (Mary and the empty tomb)
- Psalm 22 (From suffering to praise)

17. Living in the Kingdom of God

Jesus teaches and models what it means to live in the Kingdom of God by faith in him. Through the leadership of the apostles the early church is established in the Mediterranean world and beyond.

- Matthew 6 (Sermon on the Mount)
- Matthew 7 (Sermon on the Mount, cont.)
- Matthew 10 (Cost of following Jesus)
- Luke 17 (Faith the size of mustard seed)
- John 14 (The way to the Father)
- John 15 (Vine and branches)
- Acts 2 (Pentecost and Spirit outpouring)
- Acts 9 (Saul on road to Damascus)
- Acts 10 (Good news for the Gentiles)
- Romans 12 (Worship in Kingdom of God)
- 1 Corinthians 1 (Christ the wisdom of God)
- 2 Corinthians 5 (New creations in Christ)
- Galatians 2 (Crucified with Christ)
- Ephesians 1 (Adoption of believers)
- Ephesians 2 (Saved by grace through faith)
- Philippians 3 (Righteousness through faith)
- 1 Thessalonians 4 (Living in holiness)
- Hebrews 2 (Jesus our brother)
- 1 Peter 1 (A living hope)
- 1 John 3 (What love is)
- Psalm 8 (Dignity of humanity)
- Psalm 16 (Confidence in the Lord)
- Joel 2 (Spirit outpouring)

18. Anticipating the Day of the Lord

In conjunction with the arrival of God's kingdom through Jesus, both the Old and New Testament writings point forward to a future, not-yet reality, when sin and death are forever defeated and God renews all creation in a new heaven and new earth.

- Jeremiah 33 (New covenant)
- Isaiah 42 (Justice & a light to the nations)
- Isaiah 65 (A new creation)
- Isaiah 66 (Final judgment & restoration)
- Ezekiel 36 (Spirit and a new heart)
- Ezekiel 43 (Return of the glory of the Lord)
- Malachi 3 (Refiner's fire)
- Malachi 4 (The Day of the Lord)
- Daniel 12 (The end of the days)
- Matthew 24 (Return of the Son of Man)
- Mark 13 (Signs of the end of the age)
- 1 Corinthians 15 (Victorious resurrection)
- Hebrews 8 (New covenant)
- Revelation 20 (Defeat of Satan)
- Revelation 21 (New creation)
- Revelation 22 (Eternal life)