

# Bible Reading Plan: The Bible

The Bible makes great claims. It clearly states that its author is God who is the Creator of all things. It claims to reveal God and His purpose with creation and it speaks with authority about how we can seek and find Him. If this claim cannot be upheld, then the Bible is the greatest and the most cruel hoax which has ever deluded mankind. However, if the claims of the Bible are true, then we are in possession of the world's greatest treasure.

The Bible is indeed God's message and is unique. As the true Word of God it contains the key to peace and everlasting life. Within its pages the answers to perplexing questions concerning the meaning and purpose of our existence and the final outcome of the struggle between right and wrong can be found. Understanding the message of the Bible is the key to finding salvation through the saving name of the Lord Jesus Christ. The message of the Bible is far too important to be ignored or to be left to others to tell us what it says. We must read the Bible for ourselves.

## READ THE BIBLE TODAY

An objective view of world events and the state of mankind, shows that time is fast running out for this world and thus for you. So make TODAY your opportunity and start reading this wonderful book now. Begin today to find out how to prepare for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

## WHICH VERSION?

There are many different versions of the Bible in many languages. Even those in English range from using the language of the 17th Century to modern versions translated into the way we speak and write today.

Whichever version you use, you will find the same basic message. Some people prefer the poetic language of the Authorised or King James Version. Others the modern style of for example the New King James Version, the Revised Authorised Version or the New International Version. It is a matter of personal preference. Select the version which suits you best. These Bible reading notes are based upon the Authorised Version unless stated otherwise.

If you intend to purchase a Bible it is well worth the extra to have a Bible with marginal references.

## HOW TO USE THESE NOTES

These notes are structured around reading one chapter of the Bible every day. Daily Bible reading is a worthwhile habit to acquire.

By following this pattern the six STEPS will be covered in exactly fifty two weeks. So in one year it will be possible to get a very good overall view of the message of the Bible. Within these notes, each STEP starts with an introduction giving an overview of the chapters and parts of the message to be covered. It is recommended that the sequence be followed right through.

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Each day's chapter should be read carefully and in conjunction with the Daily Note. Other relevant Bible passages will be suggested as worth referring to. Looking up these other references is important and will help your overall understanding of the Gospel message. Reading the Bible as a whole will show how the message of the Bible is consistent. Indeed all parts of God's word have something to teach us.

Numbers 14:21 means the Book of Numbers, Chapter 14 and Verse 21. The 66 books of the Bible are usually listed at the front of the Bible to assist in finding them.

Although this Planner lasts one year it has not been dated so there is no need to wait until next January 1st. You can start at STEP ONE right away.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR STUDY

1. Find time to read through the chapters in the Bible carefully without rushing. Settle down comfortably and quietly for study.

2. When a passage from the Bible is quoted, look it up in your Bible and read the passage. Check for yourself that the verses are not taken out of their context. Look at the verses before and after those quoted and be certain that you understand what the passage teaches.

3. Try and set aside a little time each day for reading at a

time when you are not likely to be disturbed.

4. If you have any questions about anything contained in the days reading write it down and feel free to contact us for an answer. E-mail: [goodnews@biblelight.org](mailto:goodnews@biblelight.org)

5. We are told in the Book of Acts of the Apostles in the New Testament about Cornelius. He wanted to learn more of God and of His will. He prayed to God for help and his prayers were heard and answered. (Acts 10).

## Bible Reading Hints

### DO:

- ▶ Look first to the Bible for answers to questions
- ▶ Read all of the Bible to find answers to your questions
- ▶ Use clear passages to explain more difficult ones
- ▶ Write down your questions [It may be a while before you get answers]

### Don't:

- ▶ Expect quick answers
- ▶ Look at isolated passages and draw conclusions

May God bless you in your study.

# Bible Reading Plan: Step 1

Step 1: WEEK1	
SUNDAY	Psalm 19
MONDAY	Genesis 1
TUESDAY	Luke 2
WEDNESDAY	1 Corinthians 13
THURSDAY	Mark 4
FRIDAY	Ecclesiastes 3
SATURDAY 2	Timothy 3

Begin each day's readings with a prayer asking God to bless your studies of His word.

The readings in Step One are an interesting selection from various parts of the Bible.

The unity, truth and divine origin of the 66 Books of the Bible become increasingly certain as you read them. Although written by many different writers over 1,500 years, God is the Author and His message is the same throughout. Read consistently, thinking about what you read carefully.

## DAILY NOTES

**SUNDAY** - Psalm 19 - Creation speaks of the power and glory of God (verses 1-6) but only the Bible makes known His purpose and His ways (verses 7-14).

**MONDAY** - Genesis 1 - God made all things. He established the laws of nature and prepared the earth as man's home. Consider the wonders of creation the beauty of the heavens, the wonder of your own body. All governed by precise laws of physics and nature. We must be created and have not just 'evolved'.

**TUESDAY** - Luke 2 - The miraculous birth of Jesus brought promises of peace (verse 14) and of salvation for Jews and Gentiles (verses 29-32).

**WEDNESDAY** - 1 Corinthians 13 - Charity (love) is the supreme quality for us to follow and has promise of an eternal future (verses 11-13). Think about how the practical attributes of love should be demonstrated in our lives.

**THURSDAY** - Mark 4 - The word of God is a precious seed to be cultivated and become fruitful in our lives for the glory of God.

**FRIDAY** - Ecclesiastes 3 - Life is short and fragile. We need to use our time wisely to serve God and to prepare for the day of judgment (verse 17). The principle is that God must come first in our lives.

**SATURDAY** - 2 Timothy 3 - The world today is described in verses 1-7. The Bible is given by God to make us godly, showing us how we should live our lives and lead us to salvation (verses 15-17).

# Bible Reading Plan: Step 2

## STEP 2 INTRODUCTION

Step Two covers two weeks. The first week is spent in the Old Testament and the second week in the New Testament.

Week two looks at the events following the Creation, in the first few chapters of Genesis. Week three looks at the new beginning when Jesus began his ministry proclaiming the gospel message. It is important to realise that the Bible is wholly the word of God and what we find in the New Testament has its foundation in the Old Testament.

### GOD'S PLAN

When creating the earth and the first man and woman, God had an ultimate goal or purpose in mind.

This purpose is that the earth will be filled with men and women who have chosen to serve God and give Him glory. (Numbers 14:21). Men and women who desire to develop attributes and characteristics that reflect God's glorious character (Exodus 34:5-8) Just as Jesus does.

Those people who believe God's word and have faith will be given everlasting life in the kingdom of God on earth (Isaiah 45:18,23. Matthew 5:5. Daniel 7:27).

An essential stage in this **plan** was the miraculous birth of

God's Son - Jesus Christ. His perfect obedience to God's will was vital to the plan.

The Bible is vital as a means of telling us what **we** have to do.

# Bible Reading Plan: Step 2

Step 2: WEEK 2	
SUNDAY	Genesis 2
MONDAY	Genesis 3
TUESDAY	Genesis 4
WEDNESDAY	Genesis 5
THURSDAY	Genesis 6
FRIDAY	Genesis 7
SATURDAY	Genesis 8

**GENESIS:** The name Genesis' means the book of the beginnings'. It tells us about creation, the beginnings of the earth and of man and woman. God tested man to see if he would fulfill the reason for his creation and Genesis tells of man's subsequent disobedience of God's commandment. Thus we also find out how sin and death came into the world.

Genesis contains the first references to God's provision of a way of reconciliation with Him and begins to show the path to salvation. In fact, GENESIS is a vital foundation for understanding the whole Bible.

## DAILY NOTES

**SUNDAY** - Genesis 2 - Note the special creation of man (verse 7), the life style man was given (verse 15) and of woman (verses 18, 20 & 22) and the true marriage relationship (verse 24).

**MONDAY** - Genesis 3 - God had said that sin (disobedience) would bring death (verse 3) and so it did (verse 19). See Romans 5:12. Note the reason for sin - pride (verse 6). Note also how an idyllic setting was lost and man now had to now work for his food (verse 17-18)

**TUESDAY** - Genesis 4 - Man was now dying in need of salvation. He could serve God by faith, living his life in humble obedience to God's commands and as a result have hope of eternal life (verse 4 with Hebrews 11:4) or give himself over to sin like Cain who killed his own brother (verses 5-8).

**WEDNESDAY** - Genesis 5- Cain's descendants (of chapter 4) are contrasted with the better line from Seth (verse 3 onwards) leading to Noah (verse 29).

**THURSDAY** - Genesis 6 - Only Noah and his family were separate from the violent society around them. God showed them what to do so that they could be saved (verse 14) and also how to do it (verses 15-16). The Bible tells us what we must do and the life of Jesus shows us how we may please God.

**FRIDAY** - Genesis 7 - Noah believed what God had said and he built the Ark. We need faith in God's way (Hebrews 11:7) and must prepare for the judgment to come (2 Peter 3:1-7, 11-13).

**SATURDAY** - Genesis 8 - God remembered Noah (verse 1). The dove with the olive branch has become a symbol of peace (verse 11). God will never destroy the earth (verse 22 and Genesis 9:13-15).

## Bible Reading Plan: Step 2

Step 2: WEEK 3	
SUNDAY	Matthew 1
MONDAY	Matthew 2
TUESDAY	Matthew 3
WEDNESDAY	Matthew 4
THURSDAY	Matthew 5
FRIDAY	Matthew 6
SATURDAY	Matthew 7

**MATTHEW:** The new Testament begins with the family 'tree' of Jesus to show his connection with Abraham (Genesis 12) and King David (2 Samuel 7) in the Old Testament.

Matthew (the tax collector who became a disciple) was chosen and inspired by God to write one of the Gospel records. In Matthews record he shows that Jesus was the promised Messiah foretold in the Old Testament.

As you read through the chapters notice the frequent references to the Old Testament with such words as: 'as it is written.'

## DAILY NOTES

**SUNDAY** - Matthew 1 - Jesus is the Son of God (verses 18-20). Through his mother he was also a descendant of David (1,000 BC) and of Abraham (2,000 BC) as promised in the Old Testament. Notice fulfilled prophecy verse 23, which quotes from Isaiah 7:14

**MONDAY** - Matthew 2 - The son of David was destined to be a King and, like David, would be born in Bethlehem as foretold by the prophet Micah (700 BC) (Micah 5:2 and Luke 1:32). Note again how prophecy is fulfilled verse 15 -Hosea11:1; verse 18 - Jeremiah 31:15

**TUESDAY** - Matthew 3 - God's promise to send a Saviour, with a forerunner (John the Baptist) was made through Isaiah (700 BC) (Isaiah 40:1-5). Jesus did not sin and had no need to repent, but was baptized by John as an act of humble obedience (verses 15-17). It is this example that those who desire to follow Christ must also follow (Mark 16:16).

**WEDNESDAY** - Matthew 4 - Jesus used the Old Testament for guidance in dealing with problems and temptation (verses 4, 7, 10). Note how Jesus counters temptation with the comment 'it is written'. It is only by reading the Bible regularly that Christ's disciples can learn God's word and put it into practice in their own lives.

**THURSDAY** - Matthew 5 - The Sermon on the Mount (chapters 5-7) is often thought impractical today, but these are Jesus' rules for the Christian life and every follower of Christ must try to live by them.

**FRIDAY** - Matthew 6 - The prayer of Jesus is a pattern on which we should base our prayers, . We should pray for God's kingdom to come on earth and for Jesus to return. (verse 10).

**SATURDAY** - Matthew 7 - We need to build on the sure foundation of Christ and God's word, to be safe (verses 24-27). Salvation is not for everyone but for those few who truly desire it (verses 13, 19, 21)

# Bible Reading Plan: Step 3

## STEP 3 INTRODUCTION

Step Three will occupy three weeks and will begin to explore the Genesis record of the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. We will read about the great faith of Abraham, of his obedience and of his trust in God. It was to Abraham that God made some wonderful promises that form part of the foundation of the Gospel message. Abraham believed God and was willing to obey His word, leaving his native land and family, then journeying to the place that God had commanded him to go. This was by no means in those days an easy journey to make, yet Abraham was obedient to God despite the hardships he endured.

Looking at this foundation will help give greater understanding and insight into what the rest of the Bible is about. For example in the New Testament it can be clearly seen that the gospel was preached to Abraham (Galatians 3:8). It will also be seen that those who display the same faith that Abraham had in their own lives, will also be blessed (Galatians 3:9).

In Step 3 the New Testament will also be included and in the gospel record of Matthew we shall continue to read about the life and ministry of Jesus. We will see Jesus as the promised descendent of Abraham. We will read of what Jesus taught about the cost of discipleship and the true works of faith. We will learn what Jesus taught about the Kingdom of God and learn of some of the miracles that

he did.

Please remember to read consistently, carefully and prayerfully. The attitude we must have is that taught by Jesus in the words: "He who has ears to hear let him hear" Matthew 13:9.

## Bible Reading Plan: Step 3

Step 3: WEEK 4	
SUNDAY	Genesis 11
MONDAY	Genesis 12
TUESDAY	Genesis 13
WEDNESDAY	Genesis 14
THURSDAY	Genesis 15
FRIDAY	Genesis 17
SATURDAY	Genesis 19

### GOD CALLS ABRAM

Abram (later called Abraham) was commanded by God to leave his home country Babylonia, a land of false religion, separate from his fathers house and go to a land that God would show him. (Genesis Ch's 11-12). If Abram was willing to do this then God promised him great blessings and a future inheritance in a new land - the Promised Land. This was Canaan, later called Palestine. Abraham was also promised that through his descendant, all nations would be blessed.

Abram's obedience and faith were remarkable and Abraham became the pattern to follow for all who want to please God. Because Abram believed in God, God esteemed him as righteous (Romans 4:12-13 and 19-25). Those who display the same faith and obedience in their own lives, are promised that

God will count their faith as righteousness and that they also will inherit the promises made to Abraham. (Romans 4:22-24 and Galatians 3:14&29)

Abram's faith was later demonstrated by his actions, in other words he lived by his belief, putting faith into action in his life.

### DAILY NOTES

**SUNDAY** - Genesis 11 - Despite the continuing disobedience of mankind and how man wanted to make a name for himself rather than honour the name of God (verses 4-6) the plan of God continued unchanged. We notice how God selected the family of Shem, a son of Noah, leading up to Abram (verses 10-26).

**MONDAY** - Genesis 12 - There are 7 parts to the important promise made by God in verses 2 and 3. The fulfilment of God's word to Abram affects all nations. Notice how Abraham puts faith into action and obeys God's word (verse 4) This putting of faith into action and obeying God's word, is an important lesson that those who desire to follow Jesus must learn.

**TUESDAY** - Genesis 13 - When Abraham separates from Lot (his kindred as instructed in Gen 12:1) God makes further promises to him (verses 14-17) which involve the eternal inheritance of the land of Canaan. This pattern of willing obedience in order to receive the promises is one that true disciples of Christ must also follow. Note that Abraham is promised the land forever - Abraham is dead, but God does not change and will honour His word, thus Abraham must rise from the dead to inherit the promises.

**WEDNESDAY** - Genesis 14 - Melchizedek (verses 18-20) was a king and priest. We note how great this King was for Abraham gave him a tithe of all he had (verse 20). Jesus is a Priest now for true believers and will come back to be King in Jerusalem. We note in Hebrews 5:6; 7:17 how Paul draws a link between

# Bible Reading Plan: Step 3

Melchizedek and Jesus.

**THURSDAY** - Genesis 15 - Abram was counted righteous because he had FAITH in God's promises (verse 6). God foretold that Abram's descendants would become slaves for a time (verses 13-14). The Hebrews did subsequently become slaves in Egypt just as prophesied.

**FRIDAY** - Genesis 17 - God's promises were renewed (verses 1-8) and Abram's name was changed to Abraham (a father of many nations). The promise was to go through Isaac, not Ishmael (verse 19) showing that the choice rests with God not human descent.

**SATURDAY** - Genesis 19 - God remains as concerned about the moral condition of the world, just as He was in the time of Lot. (See Luke 17:28-32). Sodom has lent its name to wickedness which is not acceptable to God (Genesis 18:20) and which He will punish.

Step 3: WEEK 5	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>Matthew 8</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>Matthew 9</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>Matthew 10</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>Matthew 11</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>Matthew 12</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>Matthew 13</b>
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>Matthew 14</b>

## THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Matthew tells us about Jesus as the King of the coming Kingdom of God that was promised in the Old Testament. So we see a direct link with the promises made to Abraham.

The kingdom of God is also described as 'the kingdom of heaven' (because it belongs to God) but it will be on EARTH with Jerusalem as its capital. This also means that Jesus will return.

The 'call of Christ' is in many ways like God's call to Abram. It requires belief in the same promises that are confirmed in Jesus Christ and a life of willing discipleship.

## PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM

Jesus often taught in parables. They were designed to help the humble of heart to understand the gospel of the Kingdom and to confound the proud and antagonistic. The parables can teach much to 'those who have ears to hear' and they are wonderful aids to the memory.

Some parables, like the Sower (Matthew 13) tell of the preparation stage of the Kingdom. Others, like that of the Sheep and Goats (Matthew 25) tell us of the future.

## DAILY NOTES

**SUNDAY** - Matthew 8 - The many miracles performed by Jesus were a witness to the truth of his teaching and his ability to help those in need. Note the many expressions of faith for example the Roman Centurion verses 8-10 and how Jesus rebukes the disciples for their lack of faith verse 26.

## Bible Reading Plan: Step 3

**MONDAY** - Matthew 9 - Verses 1-8. Forgiveness of sins is possible through Jesus. Note how healing is associated with sin being forgiven (verses 4-6). Matthew was called to follow Jesus (verse 9). Note the immediate response by Matthew . We also need to learn about Jesus and hear his words as recorded in scripture if we are to follow him acceptably.

**TUESDAY** - Matthew 10 - Verses 2-4. The Twelve left everything to follow Jesus. We need their faith which puts God first in our lives (verses 38-39).

**WEDNESDAY** - Matthew 11 - Verses 2-3. Jesus' reply to John's enquiry was to quote from Isaiah 35 (which is about the future kingdom). We all have problems in life that are often difficult to cope with, but by trusting in Jesus we can find a very real peace (verses 28-30).

**THURSDAY** - Matthew 12 - Verses 15-21. Jesus' attitude fulfilled Isaiah 42, verses 1-4. God's servant was to invite, not to force people. We have free will to listen to that invitation and respond or to reject the Gospel message. But each choice brings its own consequences - reward or condemnation.

**FRIDAY** - Matthew 13 - This chapter contains seven parables about the Kingdom. Notice the important stages in verse 23: (a) Receiving . . . (b) Hearing . . . (c) Understanding God's Word.

**SATURDAY** - Matthew 14 - Jesus always had the best interests of others in mind - the sick (verse 14), the hungry (verse 19), Peter's faith (verse 29), Peter's fear (verse 31). But we must also note that behind all Jesus did there was a spiritual lesson for them and us to learn.

### Step 3: WEEK 6

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>Genesis 22</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>Genesis 26</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>Genesis 27</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>Genesis 28</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>Genesis 29</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>Genesis 30</b>
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>Genesis 31</b>

### THE FAMILY OF ABRAHAM

God chose members of Abraham's family to continue the line which would eventually lead to Christ. We note that the choice of who inherited the promises was not dependent upon human decision, for example being the eldest. The choice of who was to inherit the promises rested entirely upon selection by God. Please note what Paul has to say in Romans 9:11-16

To those whom God did chose, He repeated the same promises to them, which were made to Abraham. These promises would be fulfilled through one particular seed or descendant - the Lord Jesus Christ.

# Bible Reading Plan: Step 3

## DAILY NOTES

**SUNDAY** - Genesis 22 - Now God tested (verse 1 NKJV) Abraham to give opportunity for him to demonstrate his faith and obedience. Abraham was willing to give his son, even though he had been promised to Abraham by God. Thus the great faith and trust of Abraham was showed by his actions, for he could not have known that in the end, the giving of his son Isaac was not required. However from this chapter we learn of how these events pointed forward to the time when, later, God was to give HIS own Son! Please note how this event is used in the New Testament (Galatians 3:8-9,16).

**MONDAY** - Genesis 26 - God's promises to Isaac (verses 1-4) are related to Abraham's obedience (verse 5) and again concern all nations of the world (verse 4). God blessed Isaac (verse 12) but his prosperity was a source of envy to the peoples around him. Yet because of his faith God protected Isaac (verse 24) with the result that Abimelech saw that God was with Isaac (verse 28) and made peace with him. Thus we see the purpose of God unfolding in the lives of His children and learn that if one has faith and trust in God, then He will answer prayer.

**TUESDAY** - Genesis 27 - Rebekah knew Jacob was to be blessed (Genesis 25:19-34). Even so, she should have waited, for God to do it rather than take matters into her own hand. However we see how the choice of God was vindicated, for Esau despised the promises (Gen 25:34), whereas Jacob highly valued and sought them. Note what Paul has to say concerning Jacob, Esau and the choice of God. (Romans 9:11-13)

**WEDNESDAY** - Genesis 28 - God (not Isaac now) gives Jacob the Promises, as made first to Abraham (verses 13-15). He is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (verse 13).

**THURSDAY** - Genesis 29 - Jacob had to learn patience and

trust in God. He was 20 years in Laban's house, serving for Leah, Rachel and cattle (Genesis 31:41). Those who desire to seek God now, must learn the same lesson of having trust in the word of

God and patiently awaiting for the return of the Lord Jesus  
**FRIDAY** - Genesis 30 - The sons born to Jacob, including Joseph's sons, were to be ancestors of the 12 tribes of Israel (Genesis 46:3 and Exodus 1:1-7). Thus we see how God begins to fulfill the promise that from Abraham would come a great nation.

**SATURDAY** - Genesis 31 - God brought Jacob (whose name was changed by God to Israel) back again to his homeland, just as He promised (Genesis 28:15). God has also promised to bring the nation of Israel back to the Land of promise in our day (Jeremiah 30:3; 31:8-11).

**This plan covers the full year if you would like the rest of the steps please contact us at:**

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