

# My Favorite Bible Reading Plan

Dr. Barry McCarty

On New Year's Day, millions of Americans will make resolutions to start **exercising**, open a **savings** account, enroll in a **class** or start a new **diet**, vowing to keep their resolutions to make big lifestyle changes in the new year.

Sadly, **80%** of those New Year's resolutions will fall apart before the **second week in February**.



Strava—the world's largest online network for athletes (48 million)—reveals that **January 19** is the day people are most likely to give up on their New Year's fitness resolutions.

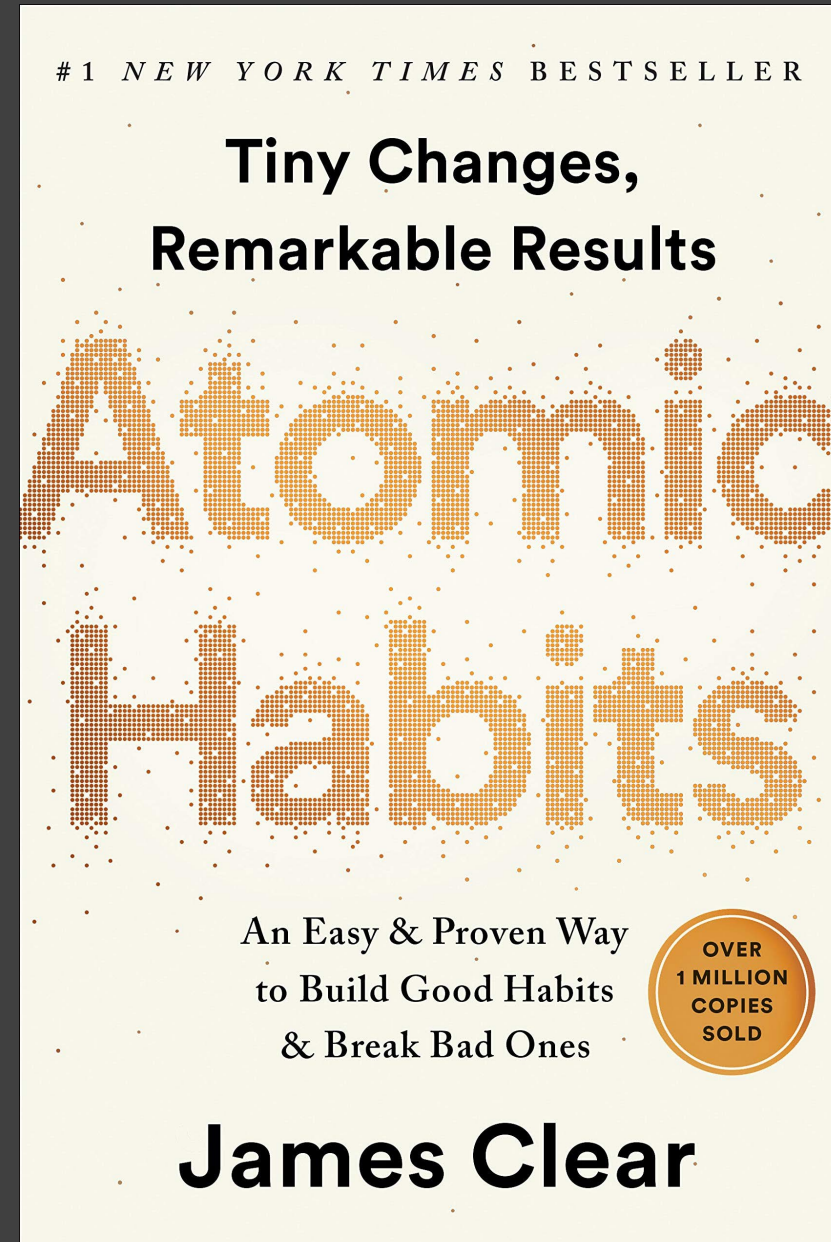
So they've named January 19 **Quitters Day**.



A study of how people can build better exercise habits divided people into three groups.

1. A **control** group was simply asked them to **track how often they exercised**.

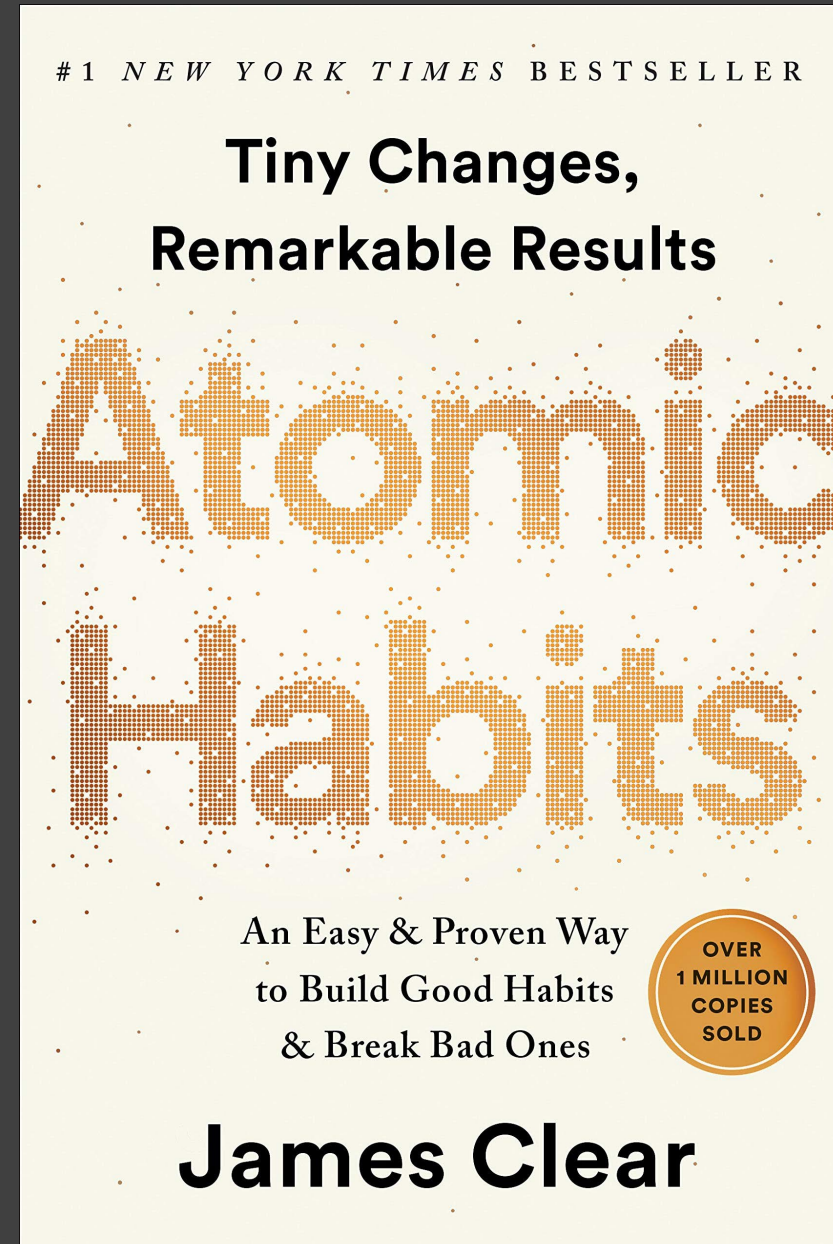
2. A **motivation** group was asked to track their workouts and **also to read** some material on the health benefits of exercise.



3. A third **intention group** was asked to do everything the second group was asked to do but they were also asked to **formulate a plan** for when and where they would exercise over the following week.

Specifically, each person was asked to complete the following sentence:

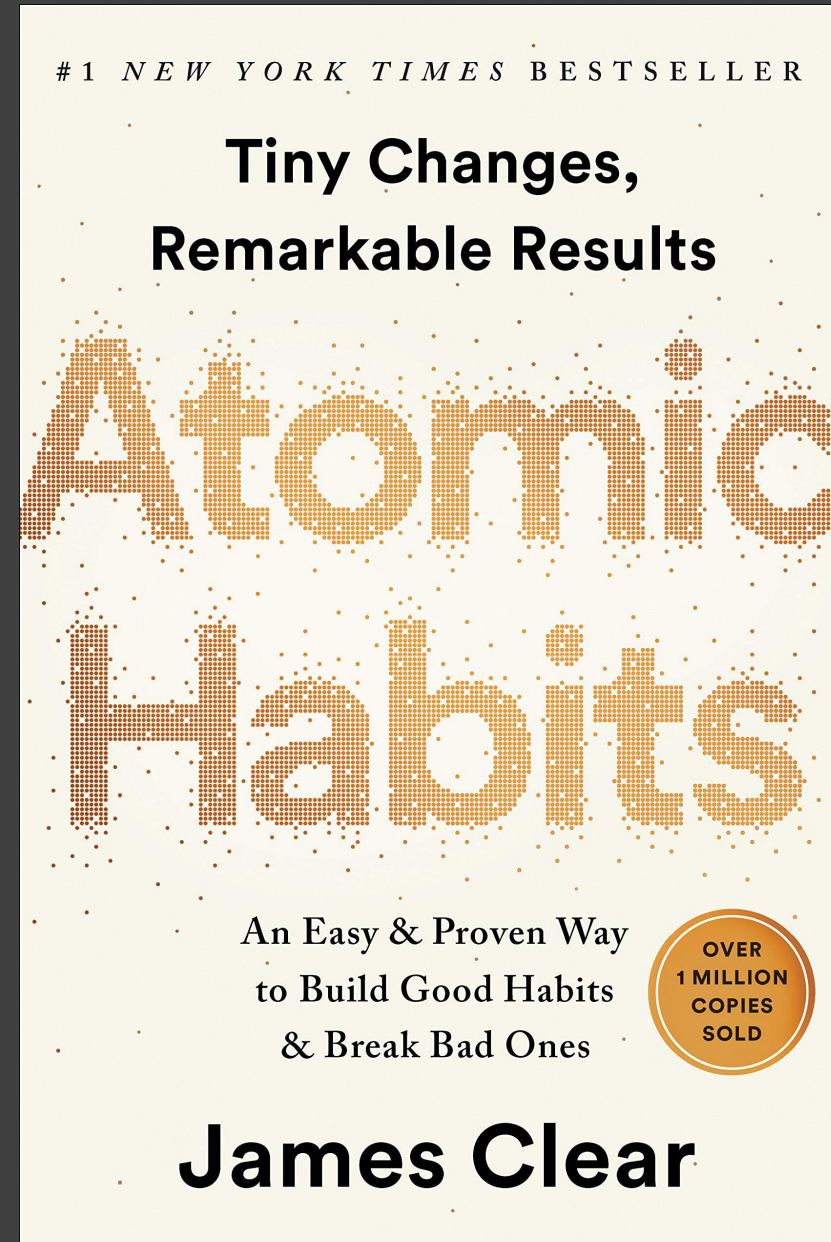
**“During the next week, I will partake in at least 20 minutes of vigorous exercise on [DAY] at [TIME] in [PLACE].”**



In the first two groups, **35-38%** of people exercised at least once per week.

But **91%** of the third group exercised at least once per week—more than double the normal rate.

All because **they had a plan.**



One of the resolutions that Christian people often make is to **read through the Bible in a year.**

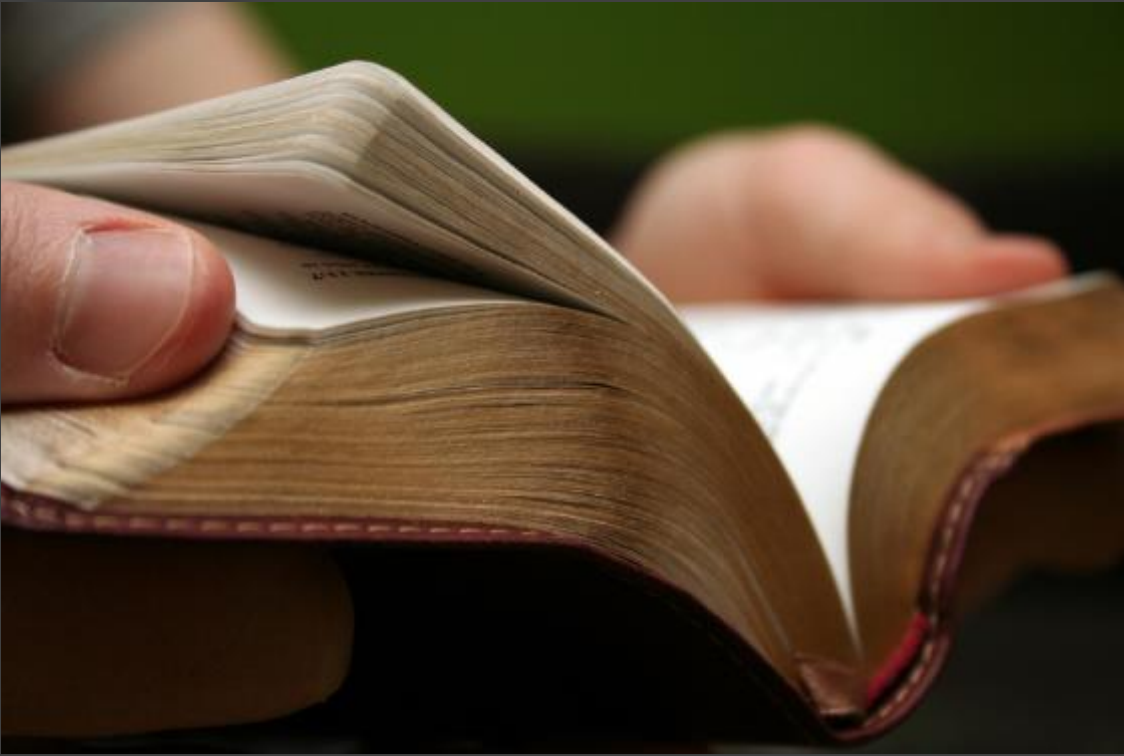
That's a great resolution.

But it takes some discipline and perseverance.

There are **1189 chapters** in the Bible and 365 days in a year.

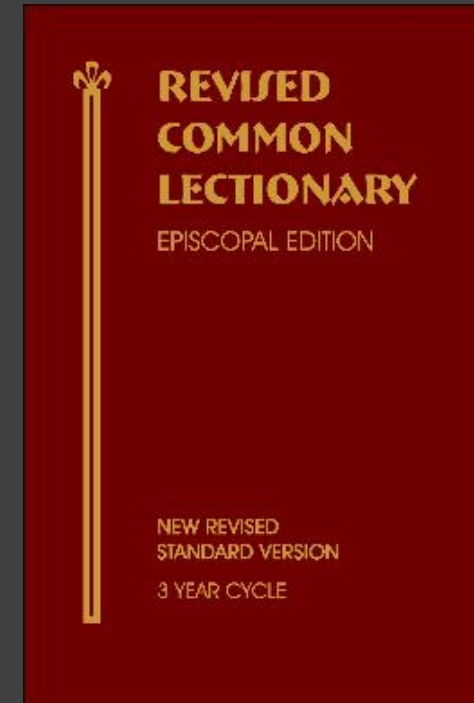
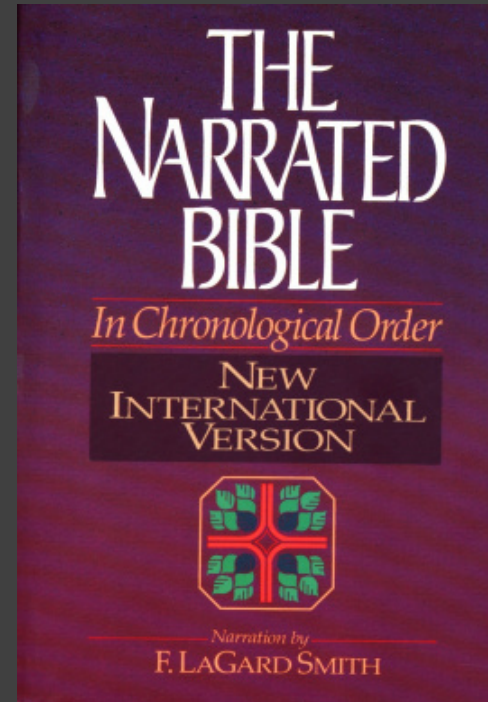
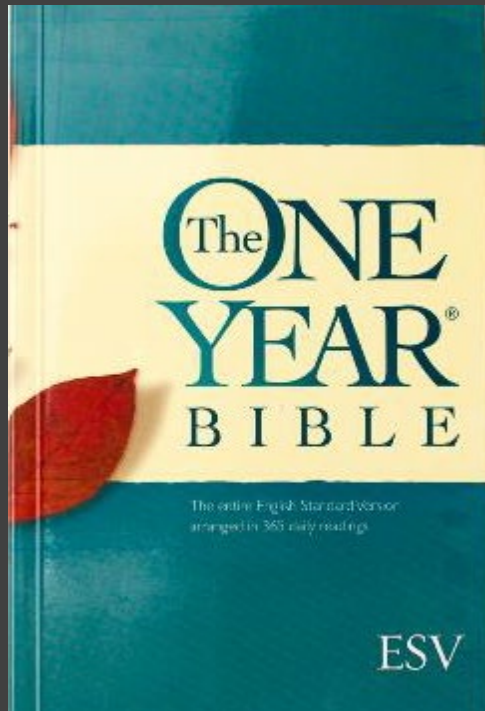
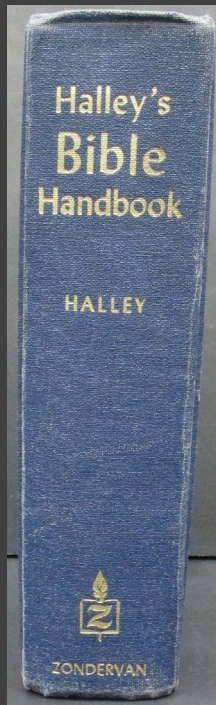
So you need to read roughly **3.25 chapters a day** in order to make it through the Bible in a year.



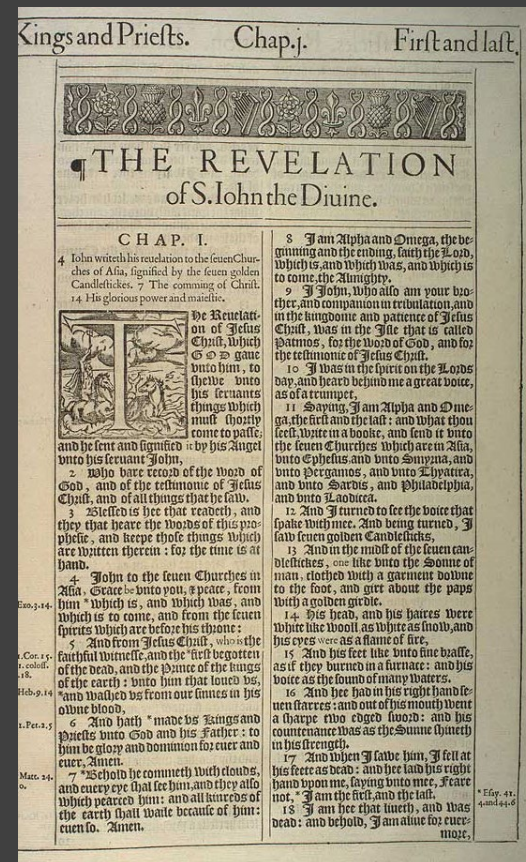
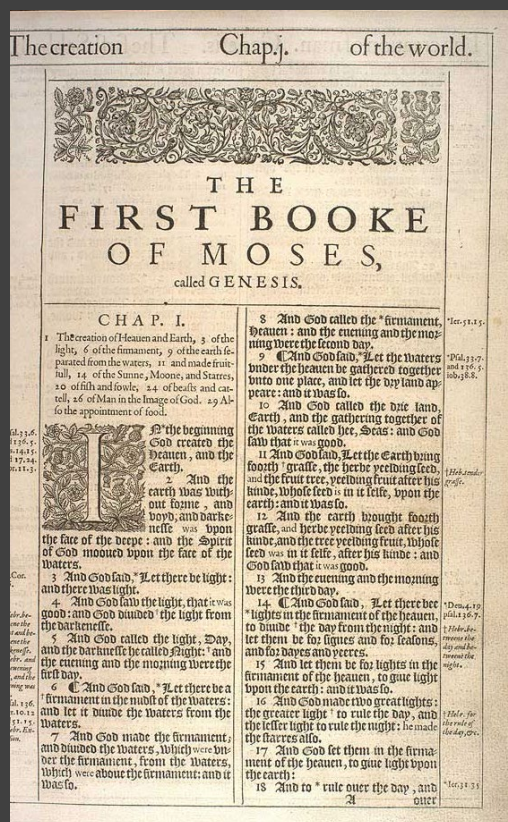


One of the most well-established principles of Christian discipleship is having a **systematic, daily plan for reading through the Bible.**

In more than a half-century as a Bible reader, I have followed all kinds of Bible-reading plans.

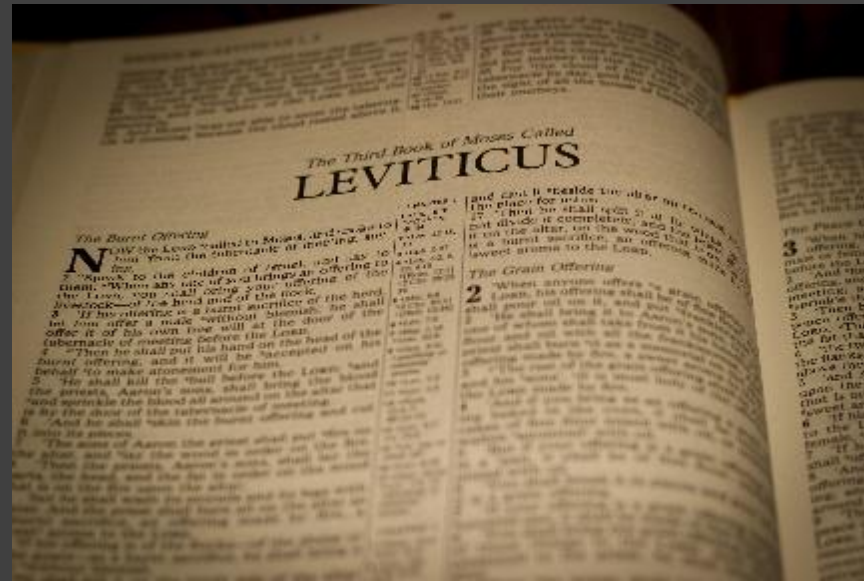


# My least favorite Bible Reading plan\*

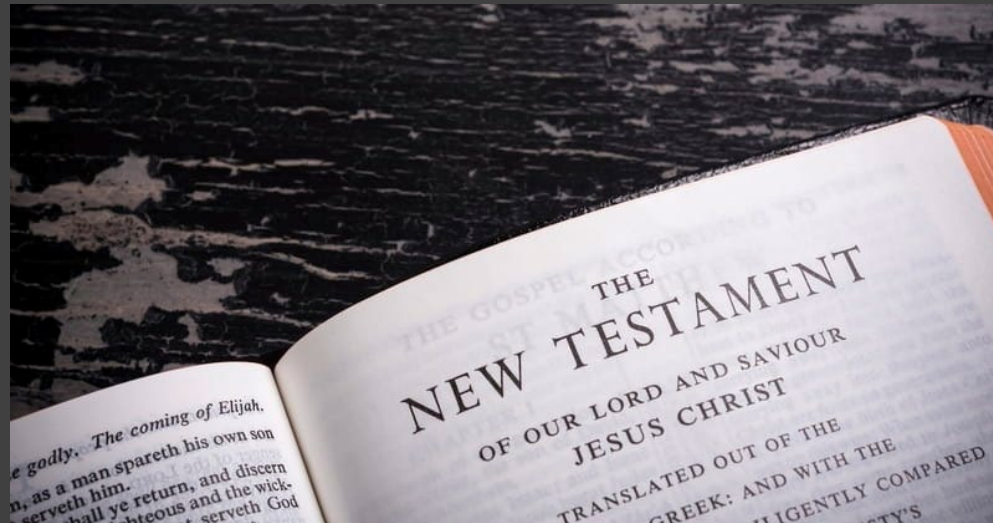


\* Which is still far better than no plan at all!

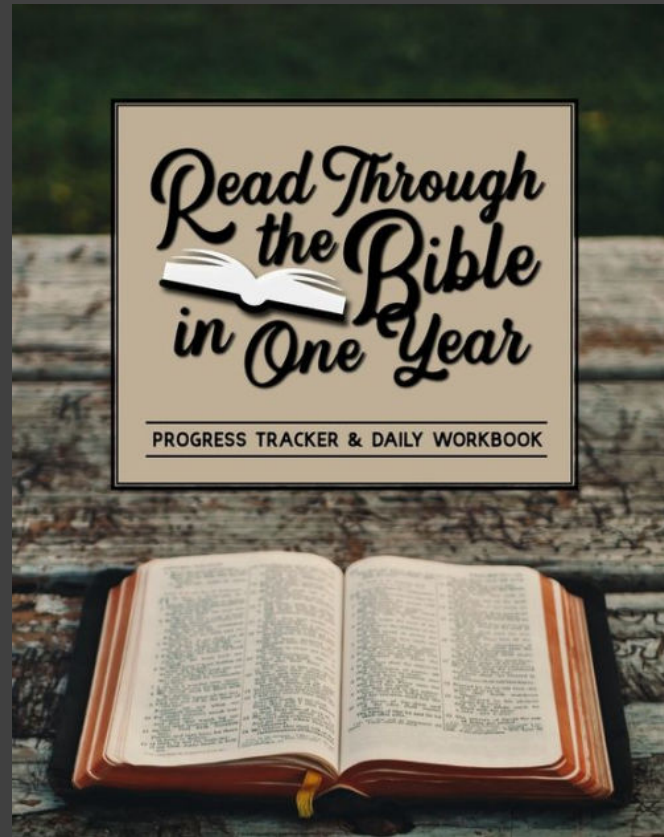
Straight Through  
the Bible is my least  
favorite plan  
because **February** is  
a terrible month to  
slog through the  
Jewish sacrificial  
rituals and dietary  
laws in **Leviticus**.



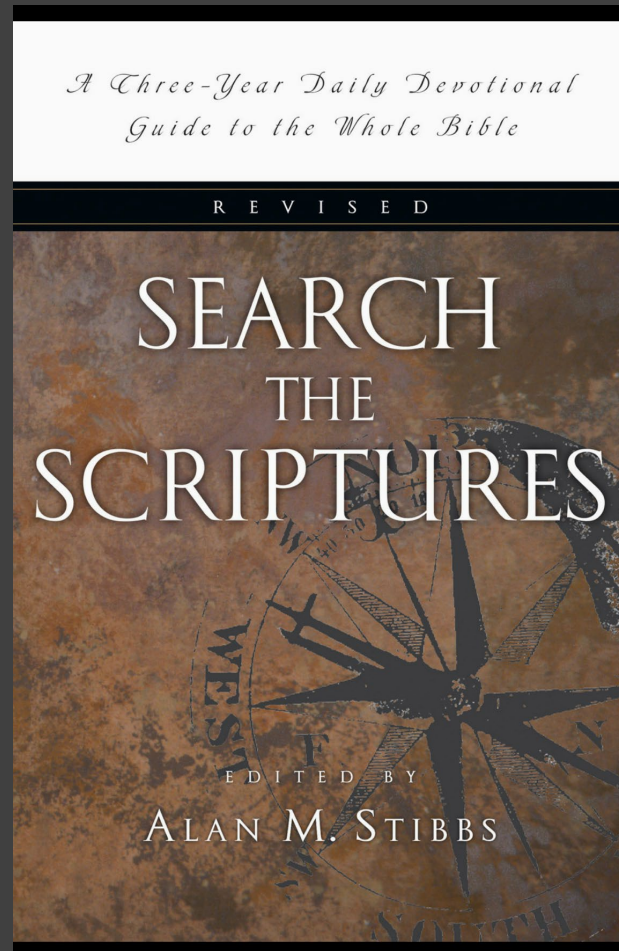
You don't even  
reach the New  
Testament until the  
middle of October.



But reading straight through the Bible in a year is still a far, far **better** plan than **no plan** at all!

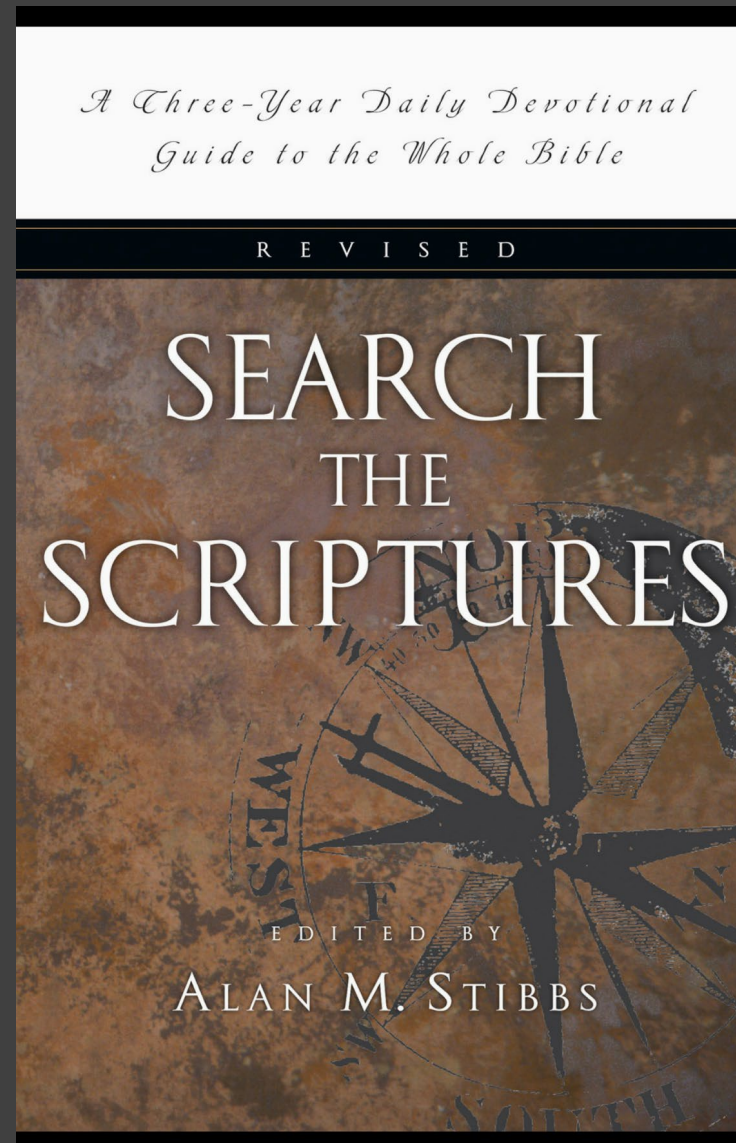


# My favorite three-year plan



***Search the Scriptures*** is a **three-year** inductive study of the whole Bible.

Edited by Alan M. Stibbs, ***Search the Scriptures*** was first issued in **1934** and has been used by many thousand believers over the past 86 years.



The study guide contains a schedule of daily readings that **alternates between the Old and New Testaments.**

Each year includes a **Gospel** and a third of the **Psalms.**

## PART ONE

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Checklist of material  
contained in this part:

[LUKE 1:1–9:56](#)

[GENESIS 1–26](#)

[LUKE 9:57–19:28](#)

[GENESIS 27–50](#)

[LUKE 19:29–24:53](#)

[PSALMS 1–12](#)

[ACTS 1:1–12:24](#)

[EXODUS 1–20](#)

[ACTS 12:25–28:31](#)

[AMOS & HOSEA](#)

[PSALMS 13–29](#)

[1 & 2 THESSALONIANS](#)

[JOSHUA](#)

[GALATIANS](#)

[PROVERBS](#)

[ROMANS](#)

There is a **brief introduction** to each book of the Bible, and **2-4 study questions** for each of the readings.

## LUKE

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*1:1 –9:56*

### INTRODUCTION

This Gospel is proved by its style and language to have been written by a Greek doctor, who was identical with the writer of the Acts of the Apostles, and, as the latter book shows, was a companion of Paul. Only Luke, 'the beloved physician', fits these conditions, and as he was not a man of note, there would have been no inducement to attribute the Gospel to him had he not actually been the author.

The most probable explanation of the abrupt ending to Acts is that Luke brought that book up to date, and that Paul was still in his first imprisonment at Rome when Acts was finished. This would give a date of about AD 62 for Acts, and a year or two earlier as the latest date for the Gos-

The 2-4 daily study questions are designed to encourage a personal searching of the scriptures to discover what God has to say through His Word.

#### **STUDY 1 LUKE 1:1–25**

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1. What was the mission assigned to John the Baptist? What was to be the nature of his greatness (verse 15)? Cf. verses 76, 77.
2. What was the cause of Zechariah's punishment (verse 20)? What made him hesitate to believe the angel's message? What similar temptations to unbelief do you face? Why ought Zechariah to have believed, and why ought we to believe?
3. Verses 1–4. What do these verses tell us of: (a) the sources of Luke's information, (b) the importance that he attached to giving a truthful record,

and (c) his purpose in writing the Gospel?

*Note.* Verse 3. The title 'most excellent' suggests that Theophilus was a high official, probably not a Christian, but with some knowledge of and interest in Christianity.

#### **STUDY 2 LUKE 1:26–38**

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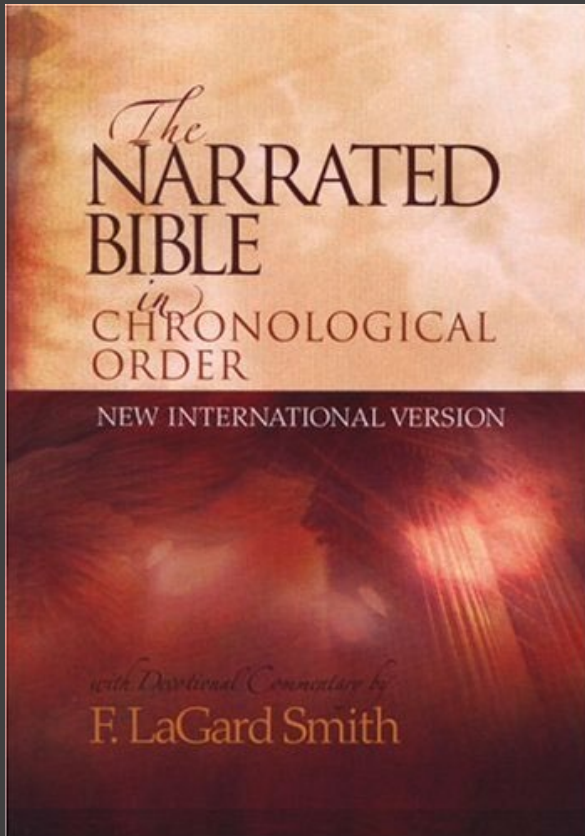
1. Verses 31–33, 35. How many features of the person and mission of the promised child can be discerned in the words of the angel? Make a list of them.
2. Contrast Mary's reception of the angel's message with that of Zechariah (see previous study, Question 2). Cf. verse 45. What did Mary's response involve? Are you prepared similarly to ask the Lord to fulfil his word in you?

*Note.* Verse 31. 'Jesus' is the Greek form of Joshua, which means 'God saves'. Cf. Matt. 1:21.

My second favorite one-year plan:

A Chronological Bible

F. LaGard Smith's *Daily Bible* or *The Narrated Bible in Chronological Order* is a good chronological Bible.



JANUARY 1



## BEGINNINGS OF EARLY MANKIND

(Creation to ca. 2100 B.C.)

### *The Beginning*



Is it possible to imagine a time when nothing existed? Take away the brilliance of the sun, for example, and the moon and stars at night. What would life be like without them? Take away the clouds and sky and rivers and oceans. Imagine the earth without any human beings, animals, fish, birds, grass, trees, or plants of any kind. What would it be like with the earth completely bare? Indeed, what would it be like if there were no earth at all, no universe—nothing? Has the universe existed forever? Was there never a time when it had a beginning? Surely it must have had a beginning. But when would that have been? How would it all have happened? What made it happen? For what purpose, if any, did it happen? Who am I? Where did I come from? Why am I here?

Since recorded history began, men and women of every generation, culture, and place have searched for the answers to those questions. Some say it all happened by chance, without any reason or purpose whatever. But given what appears to be intelligent design and order throughout the universe, an origin by chance seems hard to accept. And life without meaning seems clearly contrary to the very mind which searches for meaning. So what are the answers? Where did I come from, and why am I here? How did it all begin?

ACCOUNT OF CREATION. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. Gen. 1:1,2

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day. Gen. 1:3-5

And God said, "Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water." So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. God called the vault "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day. Gen. 1:6-8

IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER  
365 DAILY READINGS

THE  
*Daily* Bible®

WITH  
DEVOTIONAL INSIGHTS  
TO GUIDE YOU  
THROUGH GOD'S WORD



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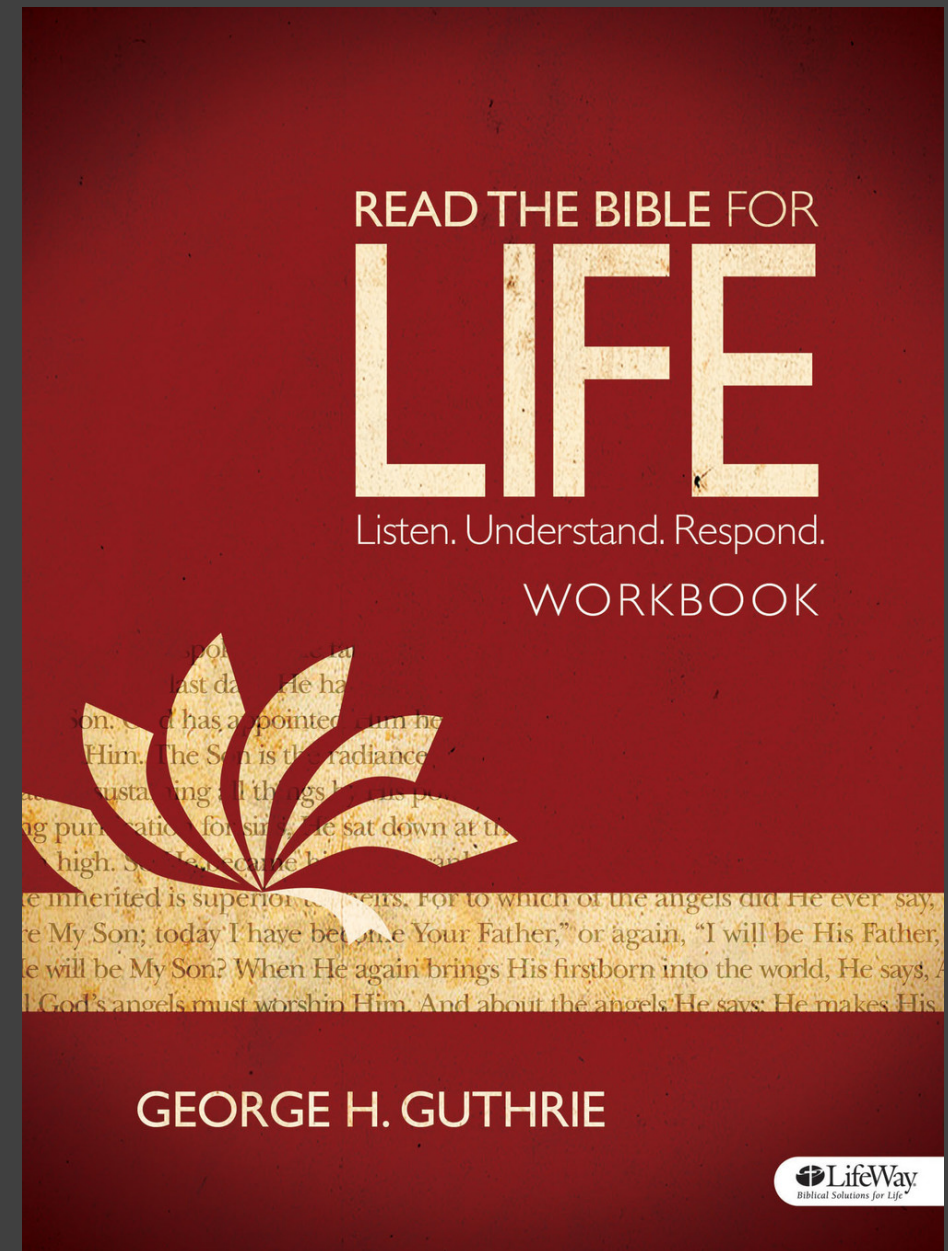


## Reading God's Story: One-Year Chronological Plan

Created by Dr. George Guthrie, this plan organizes daily Bible readings by chronological order. Since exact dating of some materials or events isn't possible, the chronology simply represents an attempt to give you the reader the general flow of the Bible's overall story.

Some passages are placed according to topic (e.g., John 1:1-3 in Week 1, Day 2; and many of the psalms).

There are six readings for each week to give you space for catching up when needed.



# Read the Bible for Life — One Year Chronological Reading Plan

## Wk 1: Jan 1-7

**Day 1**  
Genesis 1-2  
**Day 2**  
John 1:1-3  
Psalm 8; 104  
**Day 3**  
Genesis 3-5  
**Day 4**  
Genesis 6-7  
**Day 5**  
Genesis 8-9; Psalm 12  
**Day 6**  
Genesis 10-11

## Wk 2: Jan 8-14

**Day 1**  
Genesis 12-13  
**Day 2**  
Genesis 14-16  
**Day 3**  
Genesis 17-19  
**Day 4**  
Genesis 20-23  
**Day 5**  
Genesis 24-26  
**Day 6**  
Genesis 27-29

## Wk 3: Jan 15-21

**Day 1**  
Genesis 30-33  
**Day 2**  
Genesis 34-37  
**Day 3**  
Genesis 38-40  
**Day 4**  
Genesis 41-43  
**Day 5**  
Genesis 44-46  
**Day 6**  
Genesis 47-50

## Wk 4: Jan 22-29

**Day 1**  
Job 1-5  
**Day 2**  
Job 6-9  
**Day 3**  
Job 10-13  
**Day 4**  
Job 14-17  
**Day 5**  
Job 18-21

## Day 6

Job 22-24

## Wk 5: Jan 29-Feb 4

**Day 1**  
Job 25-28  
**Day 2**  
Job 29-32  
**Day 3**  
Job 33-36  
**Day 4**  
Job 37:1-40:5  
Psalm 19  
**Day 5**  
Job 40:6-42:17  
Psalm 29  
**Day 6**  
Exodus 1-4

## Wk 6: Feb 5-11

**Day 1**  
Exodus 5-9  
**Day 2**  
Exodus 10-13  
**Day 3**  
Exodus 14-18  
**Day 4**  
Exodus 19-21  
**Day 5**  
Exodus 22-24  
**Day 6**  
Exodus 25-28

## Wk 7 Feb 12-18

**Day 1**  
Exodus 29-32  
**Day 2**  
Exodus 33-36  
**Day 3**  
Exodus 37-40  
**Day 4**  
Leviticus 1-4  
**Day 5**  
Leviticus 5-7  
**Day 6**  
Leviticus 8-10

## Wk 8 Feb 19-25

**Day 1**  
Leviticus 11-14  
**Day 2**  
Leviticus 15-18  
**Day 3**  
Leviticus 19-22

## Day 4

Leviticus 23-25

## Day 5

Leviticus 26-27

Numbers 1-2

**Day 6**  
Numbers 3-5

## Wk 9 Feb 26-Mar 3

**Day 1**  
Numbers 6-9  
**Day 2**  
Numbers 10-13  
Psalm 90  
**Day 3**  
Numbers 14-16  
Psalm 95  
**Day 4**  
Numbers 17-20  
**Day 5**  
Numbers 21-24  
**Day 6**  
Numbers 25-28

## Wk 10 Mar 4-10

**Day 1**  
Numbers 29-32  
**Day 2**  
Numbers 33-36  
**Day 3**  
Deuteronomy 1-3  
**Day 4**  
Deuteronomy 4-7  
**Day 5**  
Deuteronomy 8-11  
**Day 6**  
Deuteronomy 12-15

## Wk 11 Mar 11-17

**Day 1**  
Deuteronomy 16-19  
**Day 2**  
Deuteronomy 20-23  
**Day 3**  
Deuteronomy 24-27  
**Day 4**  
Deuteronomy 28-30  
**Day 5**  
Deuteronomy 31-34  
**Day 6**  
Joshua 1-2; Psalm 105

## Wk 12 Mar 18-24

**Day 1**  
Joshua 3-6  
**Day 2**  
Joshua 7-10  
**Day 3**  
Joshua 11-14  
**Day 4**  
Joshua 15-18  
**Day 5**  
Joshua 19-22  
**Day 6**  
Joshua 23-24; Judges 1

## Wk 13 Mar 25-31

**Day 1**  
Judges 2-5  
**Day 2**  
Judges 6-9  
**Day 3**  
Judges 10-13  
**Day 4**  
Judges 14-18  
**Day 5**  
Judges 19-21  
**Day 6**  
Ruth 1-4

## Wk 14 Apr 1-7

**Day 1**  
1 Samuel 1-3  
**Day 2**  
1 Samuel 4-8  
**Day 3**  
1 Samuel 9-12  
**Day 4**  
1 Samuel 13-16  
**Day 5**  
1 Samuel 17-20  
Psalm 59  
**Day 6**  
1 Samuel 21-24  
Psalm 91

## Wk 15 Apr 8-14

**Day 1**  
Psalms 7; 27; 31; 34; 52  
**Day 2**  
Psalms 56; 120;  
140-142  
**Day 3**  
1 Samuel 25-27  
Psalms 17, 73

## Day 4

Psalms 35; 54; 63; 18

**Day 5**  
1 Samuel 28-31

1 Chronicles 10

**Day 6**  
Psalms 121; 123-125;  
128-130

## Wk 16 Apr 15-21

**Day 1**  
2 Samuel 1-4  
**Day 2**  
Psalms 6; 9; 10; 14;  
16; 21  
**Day 3**  
1 Chronicles 1-2  
Psalms 43-44  
**Day 4**  
Psalms 49; 84; 85; 87  
**Day 5**  
1 Chronicles 3-5  
**Day 6**  
1 Chronicles 6  
Psalms 36; 39; 77-78

## Wk 17 Apr 22-28

**Day 1**  
Psalms 81; 88; 92; 93  
**Day 2**  
1 Chronicles 7-9  
**Day 3**  
2 Samuel 5:1-10  
1 Chronicles 11-12  
Psalm 133  
**Day 4**  
2 Samuel 5:11-6:23  
1 Chronicles 13-16  
**Day 5**  
Psalms 15; 23; 24-25;  
47  
**Day 6**  
Psalms 89; 96; 100;  
101; 107

## Wk 18 Apr 29-May 5

**Day 1**  
2 Samuel 7  
1 Chronicles 17  
Psalms 1-2; 33;  
127; 132  
**Day 2**  
2 Samuel 8-9  
1 Chronicles 18

## Day 3

2 Samuel 10

1 Chronicles 19

Psalms 20; 53; 60; 75

**Day 4**  
Psalms 65-67; 69; 70

**Day 5**  
2 Samuel 11-12

1 Chronicles 20

Psalm 51

**Day 6**  
Psalms 32; 86; 102;  
103; 122

## Wk 19 May 6-12

**Day 1**  
2 Samuel 13-15  
**Day 2**  
Psalms 3; 4; 13; 28; 55  
**Day 3**  
2 Samuel 16-18  
**Day 4**  
Psalms 26; 40-41; 58;  
61; 62; 64  
**Day 5**  
2 Samuel 19-21  
Psalms 5; 38; 42  
**Day 6**  
2 Samuel 22-23  
Psalm 57

## Wk 20 May 13-19

**Day 1**  
Psalms 97-99  
**Day 2**  
2 Samuel 24  
1 Chronicles 21-22  
Psalm 30  
**Day 3**  
Psalms 108-109  
**Day 4**  
1 Chronicles 23-26  
**Day 5**  
Psalms 131; 138-139;  
143-145  
**Day 6**  
1 Chronicles 27-29  
Psalm 68

## Wk 21 May 20-26

**Day 1**  
Psalms 111-118  
**Day 2**  
1 Kings 1-2

Psalms 37; 71; 94

**Day 3**  
Psalm 119:1-88

**Day 4**  
1 Kings 3-4

2 Chronicles 1

Psalm 72

**Day 5**  
Psalm 119:89-176

**Day 6**  
Song of Solomon

1:1-5:1

## Wk 22 May 27-Jun 2

**Day 1**  
Song of Solomon  
5:2-8:14; Psalm 45  
**Day 2**  
Proverbs 1-4  
**Day 3**  
Proverbs 5-8  
**Day 4**  
Proverbs 9-12  
**Day 5**  
Proverbs 13-16  
**Day 6**  
Proverbs 17-20

## Wk 23 Jun 3-9

**Day 1**  
Proverbs 21-24  
**Day 2**  
2 Chronicles 2-3  
1 Kings 5-6  
**Day 3**  
1 Kings 7-8; Psalm 11  
**Day 4**  
2 Chronicles 4-7  
Psalms 134; 136  
**Day 5**  
Psalms 146-150  
**Day 6**  
1 Kings 9  
2 Chronicles 8  
Proverbs 25-26

## Wk 24 Jun 10-16

**Day 1**  
Proverbs 27-29  
**Day 2**  
Ecclesiastes 1-6  
**Day 3**  
Ecclesiastes 7-12

## Day 4

1 Kings 10-11

2 Chronicles 9

Proverbs 30-31

**Day 5**  
1 Kings 12

2 Chronicles 10

**Day 6**  
1 Kings 13-14

2 Chronicles 11-12

## Wk 25 Jun 17-23

**Day 1**  
1 Kings 15:1-24  
2 Chronicles 13-16  
**Day 2**  
1 Kings 15:25-16:34  
2 Chronicles 17  
**Day 3**  
1 Kings 17-19  
**Day 4**  
1 Kings 20-21  
**Day 5**  
1 Kings 22  
2 Chronicles 18-20  
**Day 6**  
2 Kings 1-4

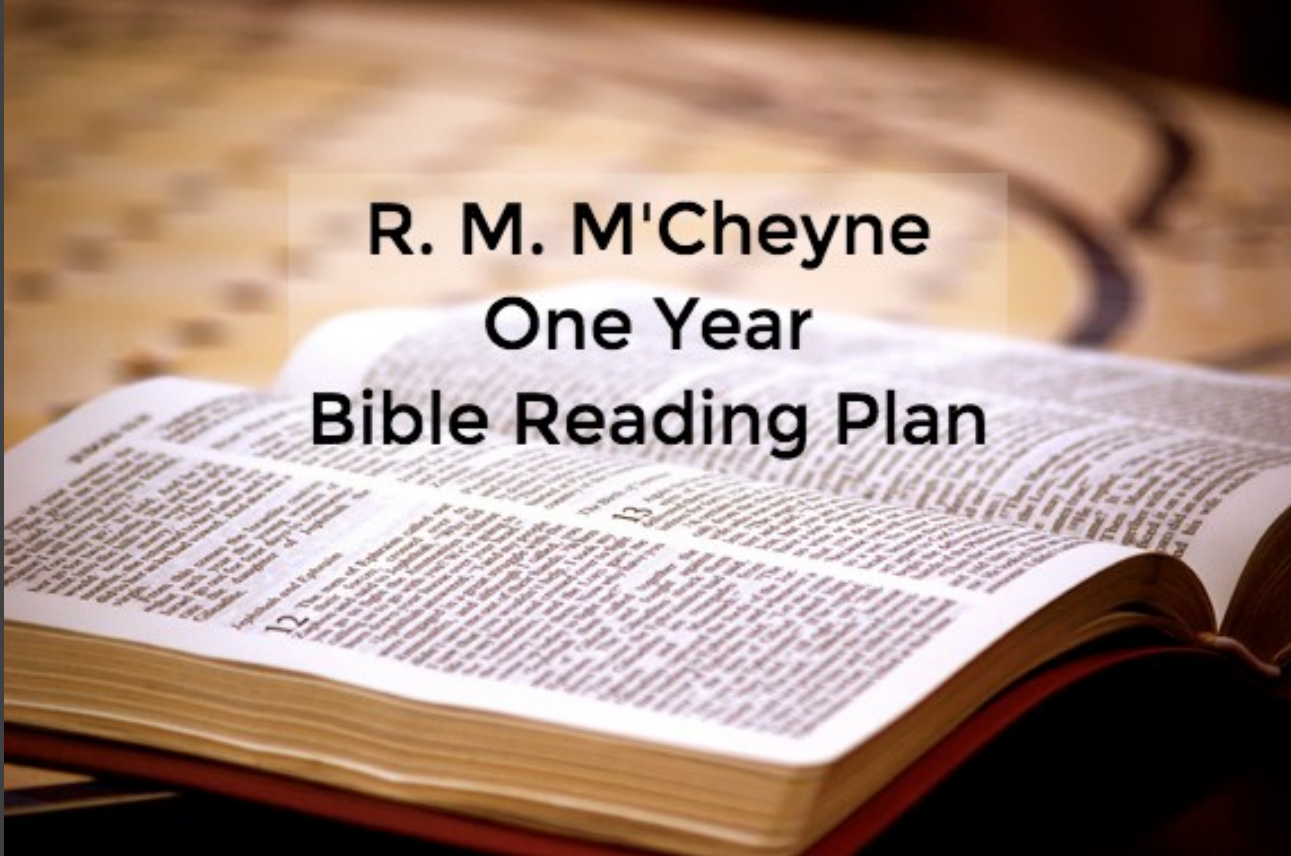
## Wk 26 Jun 24-30

**Day 1**  
2 Kings 5:1-8:15  
**Day 2**  
2 Kings 8:16-29  
2 Chronicles 21:1-22:9  
**Day 3**  
2 Kings 9-11  
2 Chronicles 22:10-23:21  
**Day 4**  
2 Kings 12-13  
2 Chronicles 24  
**Day 5**  
2 Kings 14-15  
2 Chronicles 25-27  
**Day 6**  
Jonah 1-4

## Wk 27 Jul 1-7

**Day 1**  
Amos 1-5  
**Day 2**  
Amos 6-9  
**Day 3**  
Hosea 1-5

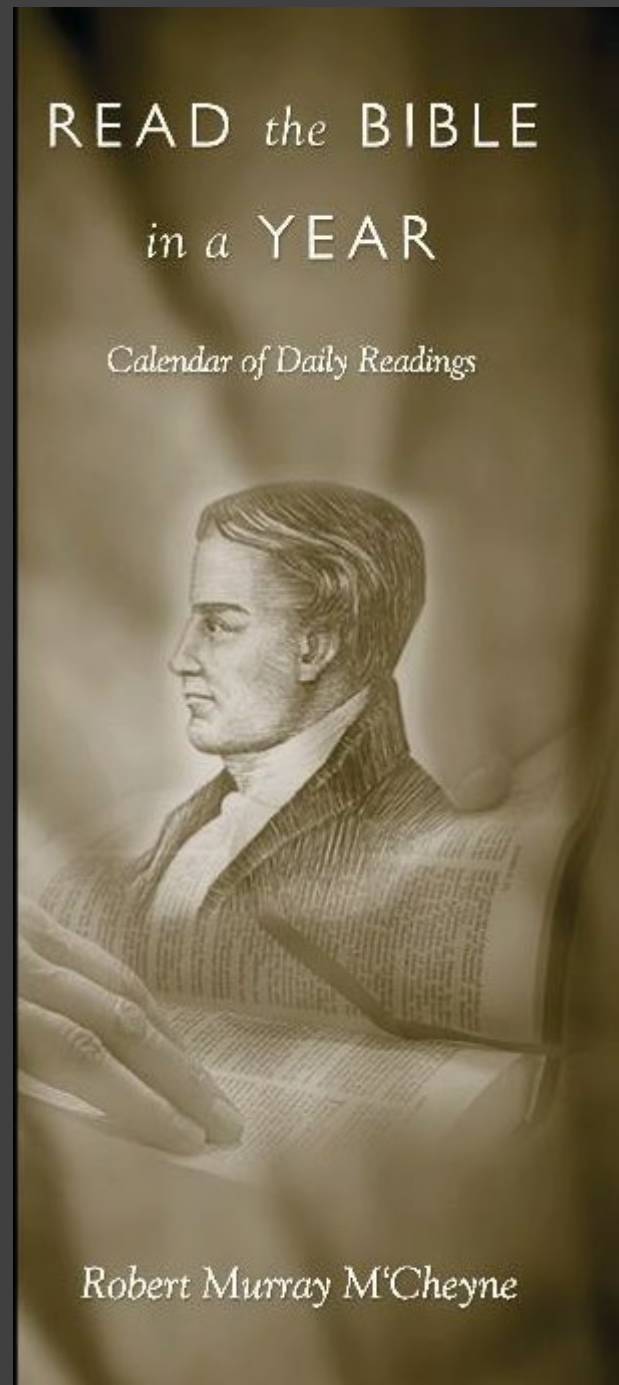
# My favorite one-year plan

An open Bible is shown from a slightly elevated angle, resting on a dark surface. The pages are filled with dense, small text, typical of a study Bible. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is centered over the open pages, containing the title of the reading plan. The background is a dark, solid color.

**R. M. M'Cheyne  
One Year  
Bible Reading Plan**

The M'Cheyne Reading Plan has become my favorite system for reading the Bible each day and reading through through the Bible each year.

The plan entails reading through the New Testament and the Psalms twice, and the Old Testament once.





**Robert Murray M'Cheyne** (1813-1843), was the pastor of **St. Peter's Church, Dundee**, from 1836 until his death in 1843.

Although M'Cheyne's life and ministry were remarkably short—he **died a month before his 30<sup>th</sup> birthday**—he was highly regarded in the Church of Scotland as a preacher and a man of deep personal piety and prayer.

He is best known for designing a widely used plan for reading through the Bible in one year.



Why is the M'Cheyne plan my favorite system for reading the Bible each day and reading through the Bible each year?

# 1. You read the Bible every day.

A well-nourished person **eats every day**—usually several times a day.



# 1. You read the Bible every day.

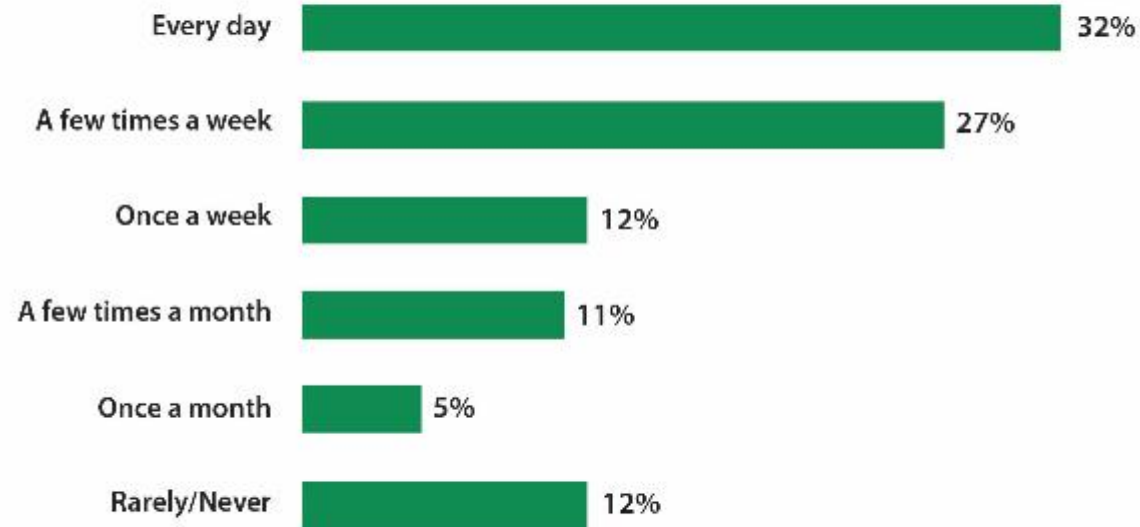
A well-nourished person **eats every day**—usually several times a day.

You feed your soul the same way you feed your body: with **regular meals**.



# How often do you read the Bible?

*Among Protestant churchgoers*



Note: May not equal 100% due to rounding.



LifeWayResearch.com

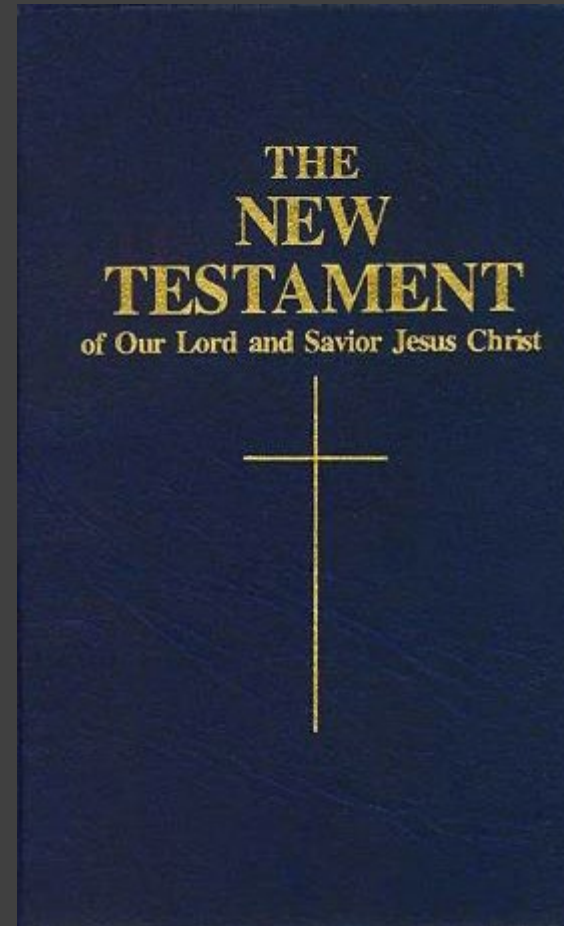
A daily Bible reading plan makes sure that you **don't starve your soul**.

## 2. You read through the New Testament twice each year.

Reading through the whole Bible—both Testaments—lets you see the big picture of the biblical story.

But the New Testament fulfills what the Old Testament foreshadows and foretells.

Reading the New Testament twice **helps you soak in the heart and center of the Christian message.**



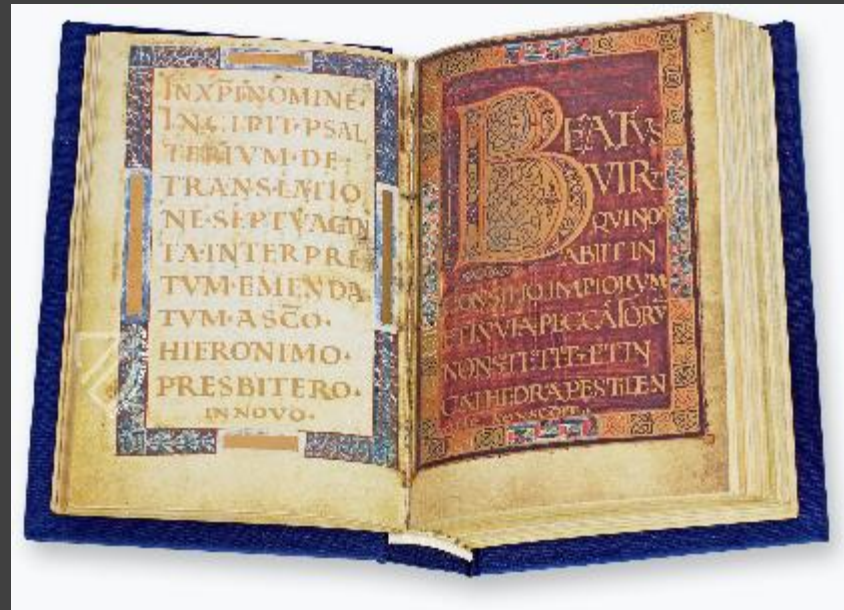
### 3. You read through the Psalms twice.



Psalms was the hymnal and the prayer book for the **people of Israel** and also for the **earliest Christians**.

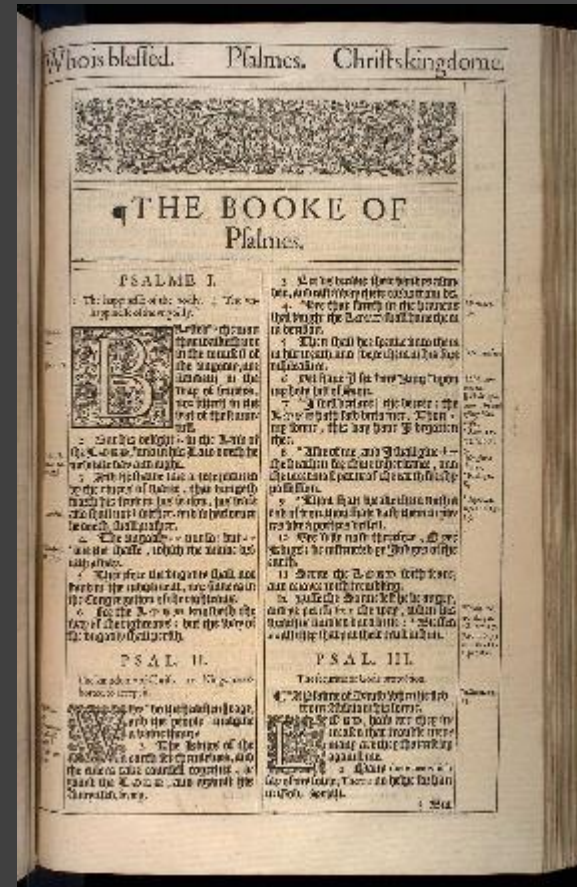
Psalms is the **most quoted book in the New Testament** and used to be the **most familiar** part of the Bible.

For a thousand years of Christian history, the average believer was likely to possess only one book of the Bible:  
**the psalter.**



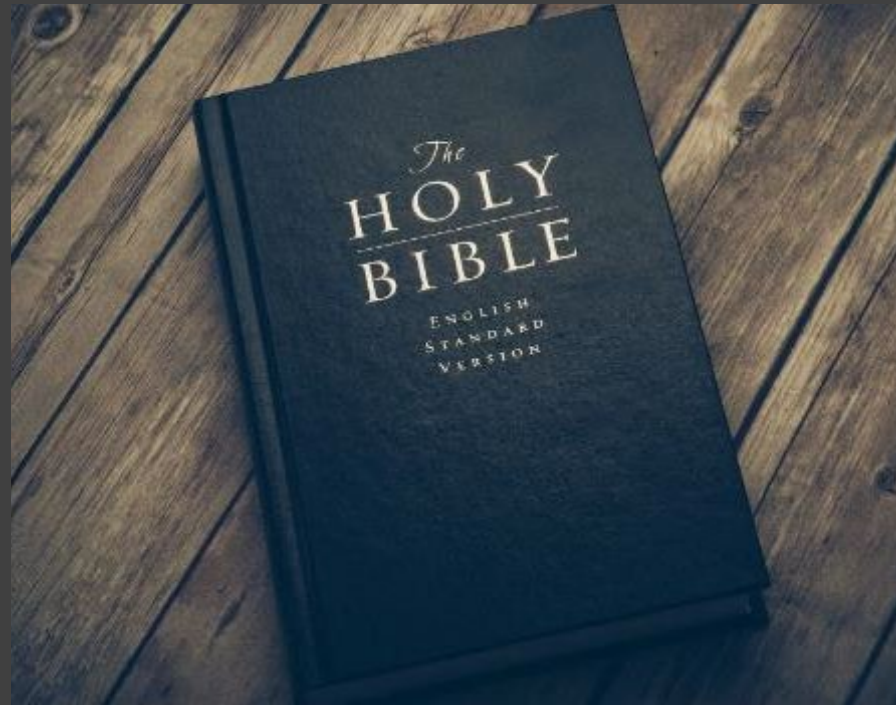


There is a strong consensus from devout Christians through the ages that if you want to know God intimately, **immerse yourself in the psalms.**

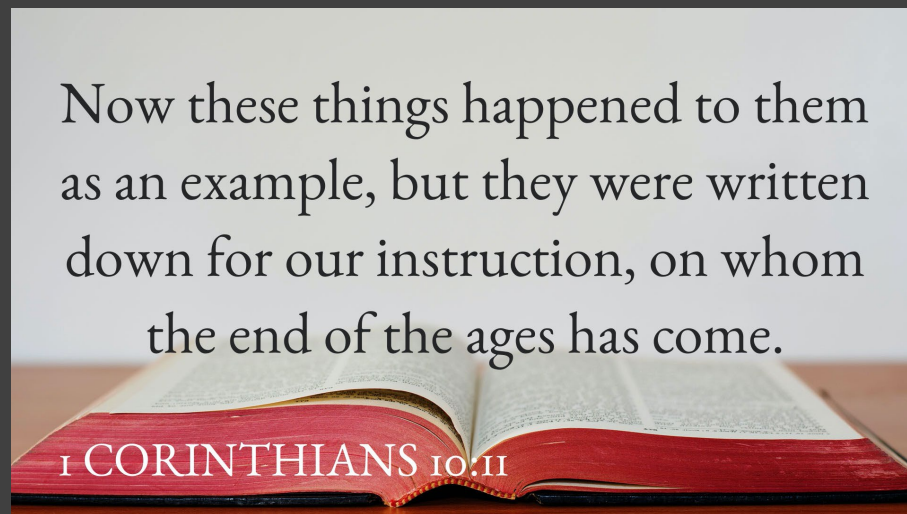


#### 4. You see how the harmony of the Bible fits together as a whole.

The Bible is 66 books in two testaments, but they form **one message** with **one purpose**: to bring us into a personal relationship with God.



Paul tells the Corinthians that what happened to their Jewish forefathers was recorded in the Old Testament “as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did.”  
(1 Corinthians 10: 6).



For example: the **New Year's Day** readings from Genesis 1, Matthew 1, Ezra 1, and Acts 1 all depict **new beginnings**.

Genesis 1 begins the story of **creation**.

## **JANUARY 1**

*Genesis 1; Matthew 1; Ezra 1; Acts 1*



## JANUARY 1

*Genesis 1; Matthew 1; Ezra 1; Acts 1*

Ezra 1 begins the story of the return of the Jews after the exile and the rebuilding of Jerusalem.



## JANUARY 1

*Genesis 1; Matthew 1; Ezra 1; Acts 1*

Matthew 1 is the the  
beginning of the Gospel of  
Jesus Christ.



## JANUARY 1

*Genesis 1; Matthew 1; Ezra 1; Acts 1*

Acts 1 marks the  
beginning of the  
church.



## JANUARY 26

*Genesis 27; Matthew 26; Esther 3; Acts 26*

On January 26, all four passages show **the providence of God**.

In Genesis 27, **Jacob** receives the birthright of the firstborn over his brother Esau.



**JANUARY 26**

*Genesis 27; Matthew 26; Esther 3; Acts 26*

In Matthew 26, the Jewish authorities hatch a nasty **plot to kill Jesus**, but his death on the cross will bring about the salvation of mankind.



JANUARY 26

*Genesis 27; Matthew 26; Esther 3; Acts 26*

In **Esther** 3, God protects his people from a government-sanctioned genocide.



JANUARY 26

*Genesis 27; Matthew 26; Esther 3; Acts 26*

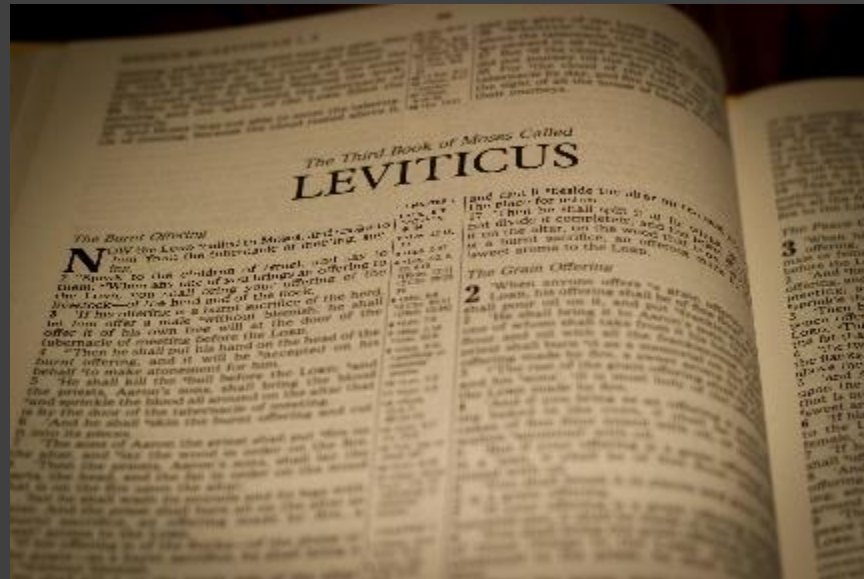
In Acts 26, **Paul's trials** and appeals in the Roman legal system will take him to preach the Gospel at the heart of the empire.



5. Readings from difficult parts of the Bible are balanced with easier to digest passages.

Because the M'Cheyne plan has four readings each day, readings from the harder books are always **balanced** with other passages that are easier to read or easier to apply to daily living.

Many people who make a New Year's resolution to read through the Bible make it through Genesis and Exodus, then **give up** in the middle of February when they bog down in the Jewish sacrificial rituals and dietary laws in **Leviticus**.



In the M'Cheyne plan, the readings from Leviticus are accompanied by passages from Psalms, Proverbs, and the New Testament letters.

DATE	FAMILY	FAMILY	PRIVATE	PRIVATE
Apr 1	Lev 4	Ps 1-2	Prov 19	Col 2
Apr 2	Lev 5	Ps 3-4	Prov 20	Col 3
Apr 3	Lev 6	Ps 5-6	Prov 21	Col 4
Apr 4	Lev 7	Ps 7-8	Prov 22	1 Thess 1
Apr 5	Lev 8	Ps 9	Prov 23	1 Thess 2
Apr 6	Lev 9	Ps 10	Prov 24	1 Thess 3
Apr 7	Lev 10	Ps 11-12	Prov 25	1 Thess 4
Apr 8	Lev 11-12	Ps 13-14	Prov 26	1 Thess 5
Apr 9	Lev 13	Ps 15-16	Prov 27	2 Thess 1
Apr 10	Lev 14	Ps 17	Prov 28	2 Thess 2
Apr 11	Lev 15	Ps 18	Prov 29	2 Thess 3
Apr 12	Lev 16	Ps 19	Prov 30	1 Tim 1
Apr 13	Lev 17	Ps 20-21	Prov 31	1 Tim 2
Apr 14	Lev 18	Ps 22	Eccles 1	1 Tim 3
Apr 15	Lev 19	Ps 23-24	Eccles 2	1 Tim 4
Apr 16	Lev 20	Ps 25	Eccles 3	1 Tim 5
Apr 17	Lev 21	Ps 26-27	Eccles 4	1 Tim 6

6. You can read at your own pace, reading through the Bible in one year or two.

The average chapter of the Bible is a little more than 26 verses.

The average reader will take 3-5 minutes to read most Bible chapters.



Reading **all four columns** in the M'Cheyne plan will take you **12-20 minutes** a day to read.

If you take time to study or pray through the passages, it will take longer.



One of the benefits of the M'Cheyne plan is that you can **do it in two years.**

If you read the first two columns in year one, you will read through the Old Testament from **Genesis to 2 Chronicles** and through the **entire New Testament and Book of Psalms.**

Reading the second column in year two will take you through the **rest of the Old Testament** and through the **whole New Testament and Psalms again.**

### JANUARY 1

*Genesis 1; Matthew 1; Ezra 1; Acts 1*

### APRIL 1

*Leviticus 4; Psalms 1—2; Proverbs 19; Colossians 2*

### JULY 1

*Joshua 3; Psalms 126—128; Isaiah 63; Matthew 11*

### OCTOBER 1

*1 Kings 3; Ephesians 1; Ezekiel 34; Psalms 83—84*

The M'Cheyne Plan is available in several Bible software programs and apps.



## M'Cheyne's



Published By Olive Tree Bible Software

Compiled By Robert Murray M'Cheyne

365 Days

**This one-year reading schedule was created by Scottish minister Robert Murray M'Cheyne in the 19th century to be used for both family and personal devotions. Each day has four readings with two from the Old Testament, one from the New Testament, and one from the Psalms or Gospels. Through the course of one year, you'll read through the Old Testament once and the Psalms and New Testament twice.**

Date Started: Jan 1, 2020

Projected End Date: Dec 31, 2020

Last Date Read: Apr 4, 2020

has the disease. <sup>58</sup> But the garment, or the warp or the woof, or any article made of skin from which the disease departs when you have washed it, shall then be washed a second time, and be clean.”

<sup>59</sup> This is the law for a case of leprous disease in a garment of wool or linen, either in the warp or the woof, or in any article made of skin, to determine whether it is clean or unclean.

1 of 4 Complete

Next - Psa 15:1 - 16:11

## Laws for Cleansing Lepers

**14** <sup>1</sup> The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup> “This shall be the law of the leprous person for the day of his cleansing. <sup>3</sup> He shall be brought to the priest, <sup>3</sup> and the priest shall go out of the camp, and the priest shall look. Then, if the case of leprous disease is

<

M'Cheyne's

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Goal Progress:

2 readings ahead

27%

Next

95

96

97

98

99

Lev 8:1-36

Lev 9:1-24

Lev 11:1 - ...

Lev 13:1-59

Leviticus 10:1-20

✓

Psalms 11:1 - 12:8

✓

Proverbs 25:1-28

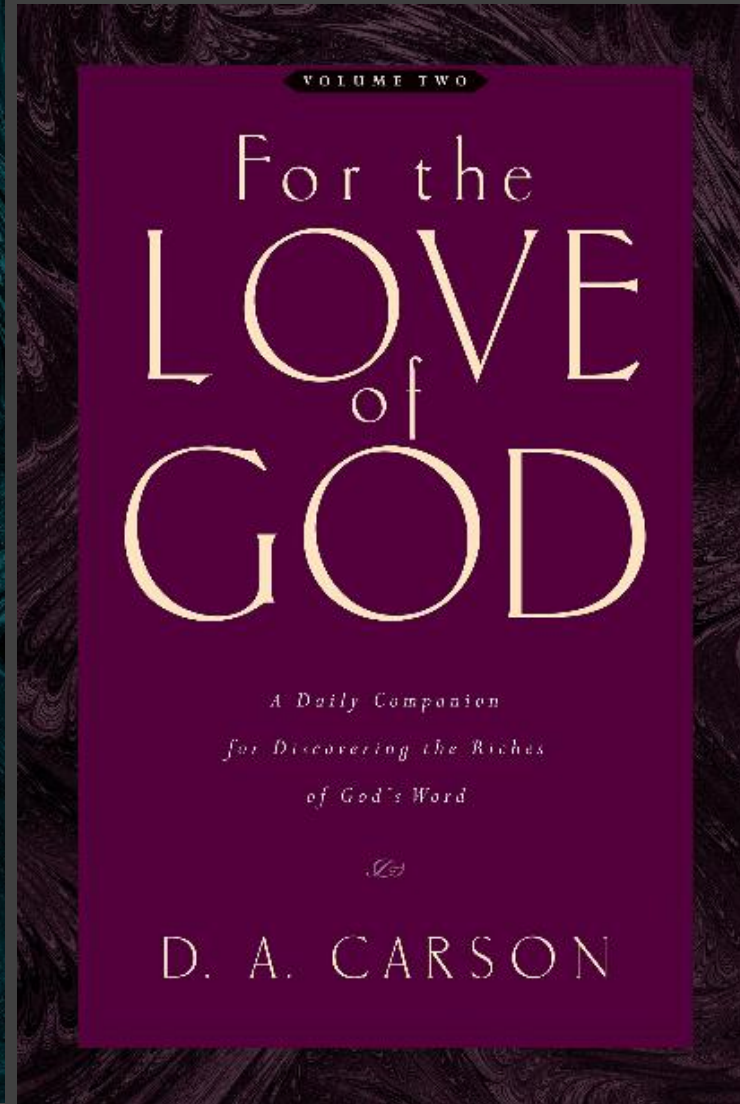
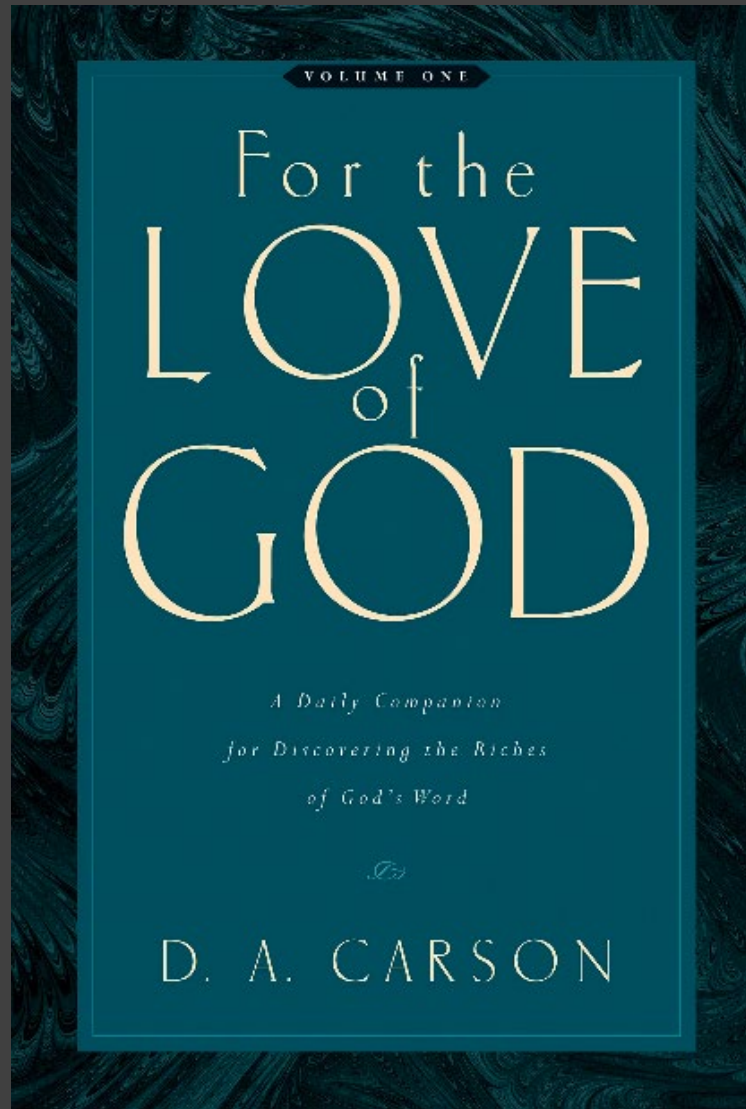
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1 Thessalonians 4:1-18

✓

Reading Complete

There is also an excellent devotional commentary by D. A. Carson that follows the M'Cheyne Plan.



## DECEMBER 26

2 Chronicles 31; Revelation 17;  
*Zechariah 13:2-9; John 16*



IN SOME WAYS **ZECHARIAH 13:2-9** continues with the theme of leadership. But it has two parts, each with very distinctive emphases:

(1) In 13:2-6 God condemns the false shepherds—a common theme, of course (e.g., Jer. 23:9ff.; Ezek. 13; 34:1-10). Moreover, it fits the immediately preceding verses. There, we saw, a fountain is opened up for the cleansing of the inhabitants of Jerusalem in general, and for the house of David in particular. But if citizens and royalty alike are purified, so also must the religious leaders be purified. “On that day” (13:2), God declares, he will banish not only the idols but the false prophets from the land. So transformed will be the situation that the covenantal ideal will be in force (Deut. 13:6-11): if someone says “Thus says the Lord” when the Lord has not spoken, his closest family members will be the first to silence him. Those who in the past have been false prophets will be so ashamed of themselves that when they are challenged they will insist that they are farmers (13:45). If there are “prophetic scars” on their bodies (doubtless from self-inflicted wounds tied to ecstatic paganism, as in 1 Kings 18:28) they will lie through their teeth and insist that the scars were the result of some brawl or other that went on “at the house of my friends” (13:6). The point is that in the final arrangements of things, false teaching and false prophecy will be a thing of the past. Those with ears to hear should therefore abominate all such “prophecy” already, as a mark of attentiveness to the true word of the Lord.

(2) Some have wondered if the final three verses (13:7-9) have somehow been misplaced from the end of chapter 11, where Zechariah has devoted a lot of attention to shepherds. In fact, these verses would not have made much sense there but they are admirably suitable here. Chapter 11 ends with Zechariah representing the worthless shepherd who undergoes divine disapproval. But the shepherd in 13:7-9 is one God approves. The connections with the preceding two sections are easier to demonstrate. In 12:10—13:1, Yahweh himself is wounded, pierced through; and then false prophets are denounced (13:2-9). But there is still a need for the *right* shepherd. The right one is God’s shepherd, “my shepherd . . . the man who is close to me” (13:7). God *commands* the sword to strike him (reflect on Acts 4:27-28). Elsewhere, God himself is the shepherd, and so is his servant David (Ezek. 34); so here, God himself is pierced through, and so also is his shepherd. The first result is that the sheep scatter (13:7; see Mark 14:27; Matt. 26:31); the ultimate result is the purification and faithfulness of the people of God (13:9).

## DECEMBER 27

2 Chronicles 32; Revelation 18;  
*Zechariah 14; John 17*



FROM TIME TO TIME IN THESE two volumes I have drawn attention to the fact that the way a biblical writer uses a word may not be the same way we use it. The serious reader of the Bible will then want to take special pains to avoid reading into the Bible what it does not say.

On the night he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus prayed for his followers in these terms: “Sanctify them by the

# Conclusion

*Every believer needs a Bible reading plan.*

I have most often done the **M'Cheyne** one-year plan.

Next most often, the *Search the Scriptures* Three-year plan.

Third most often, F. LaGard Smith's *Narrated Bible in Chronological Order*.

# *Every believer needs a Bible reading plan.*

Pick a plan that you like and that you will do.

*“On January 1, I will begin the [PLAN] Bible reading plan at [TIME] in [PLACE] and continue reading my Bible each day in 2021.*





Other books *inform* and *inspire*.

But when a Christian reads his Bible with a *believing heart* and an *obedient spirit*, God's Word does a *supernatural work* that no other book can do.

Consistency and  
perseverance are  
the keys to success.

“It’s not what you  
once did that counts  
the most, but what  
you keep doing.”

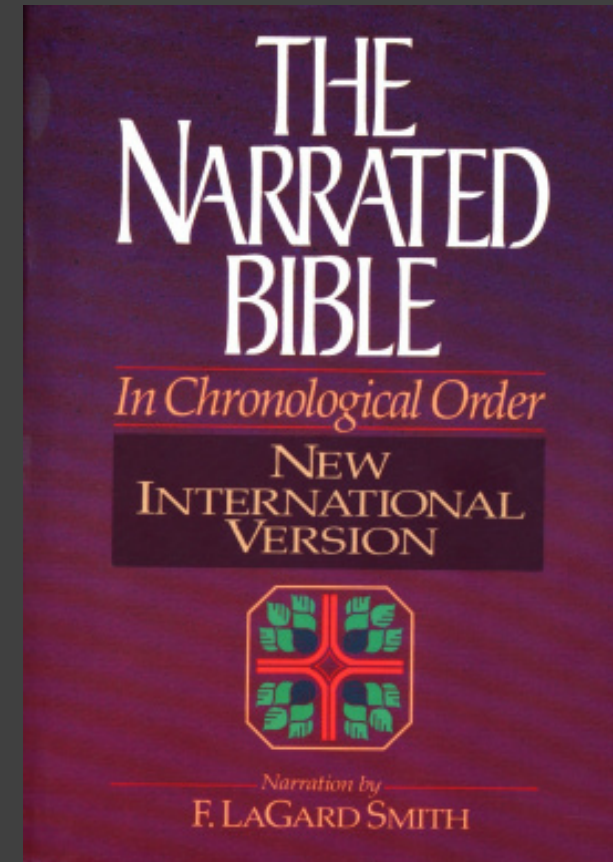
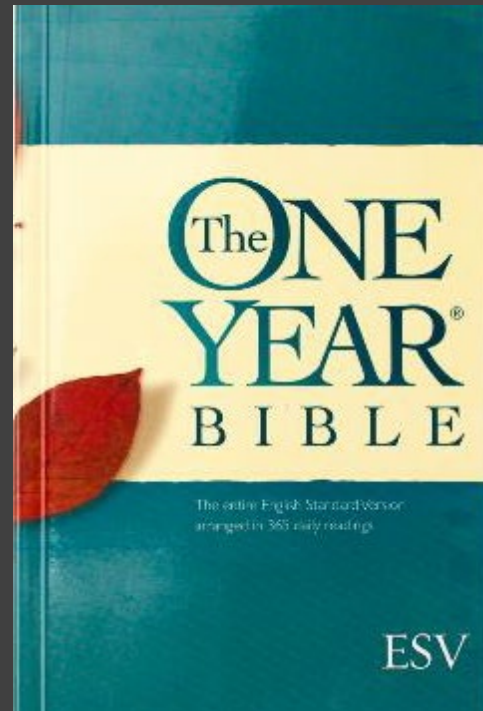
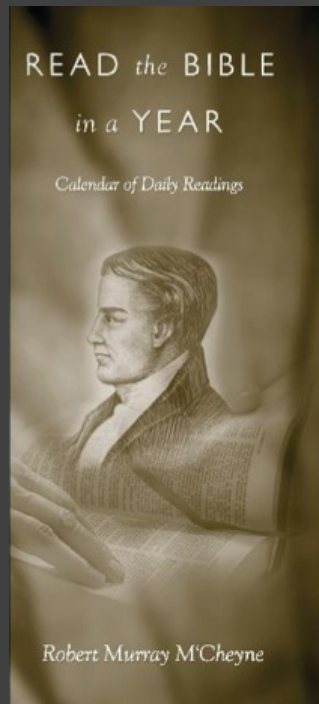
— Olympian Johnny  
Kelley, winner of the Boston  
Marathon in 1935 and 1945,  
who finished his 58<sup>th</sup> Boston  
Marathon in 1992 at the age  
of 84



You won't read the Bible each day nor  
read through the Bible this year by  
accident.

You need a plan.

Do you have one?



You won't read  
the Bible each day  
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“If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

—John 15:7-8

