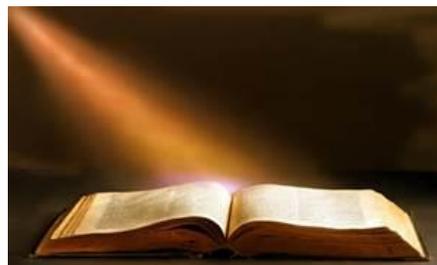


READING THROUGH THE BIBLE

This is not a race, or a mountain to climb, but simply time with God, learning to cherish His Word and letting it penetrate our hearts and lives.

GETTING STARTED

If you have little experience reading the Bible and don't feel like you know your way around in it, you will want to look at "The Bible for Life" sheet. A general rule for "reading through" is to know that you won't understand everything; just keep going. Each time you do it, it gets easier.

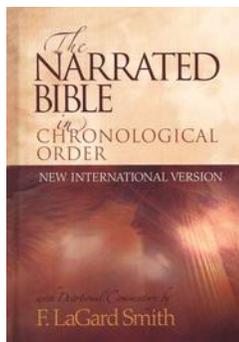


You don't have to follow a schedule, or read the books in order, either. In the New Testament, you can start with Luke and Acts to get the historical framework. Then, as you read the rest of the New Testament, go back and insert Matthew, Mark and John when you get bogged down.

One possibility for the Old Testament is to do Genesis and Exodus, then skip to Joshua through 2nd Kings, then Ezra and Nehemiah. This will give you the historical background when you go back and read the books you skipped. You can even insert a few Psalms every so often to break things up. This complicates keeping track of where you are, but may help you keep going.

FOLLOWING A PLAN

Before setting a schedule, be realistic about how regular you will likely be. Can you really expect to read *every* day, or during your vacation? Allow for breaks so you don't set yourself up for frustration. You can devise your own schedule based on the number of days a week you will reasonably expect to read. For example, say you think you will read 5 days a week, but will likely miss during your 2-week vacation; then 5 days x 50 weeks = 250 reading days. There are 929 chapters in the Old Testament and 260 in the New Testament, 1189 in all. Just divide the number of chapters by the number of days you plan to read, and bingo! you have the number of chapters per day.



Printed schedules and 'daily' Bibles do not allow for getting behind, so if you do miss days, don't quit – remember, it was the turtle that won the race. Some reading plans go straight through from Genesis to Revelation; some include a mix of Old and New Testament each day, while still others are chronologically arranged (i.e. the prophets inserted where they fit historically). I often recommend the ***Narrated Bible***, which is a chronological Bible with "narrated" sections summarizing and explaining the chapters, especially helpful your first time through.

There are a number of places on the internet to get daily readings, one place you can go is:

<http://www.esv.org/resources/reading-plans-devotions/>