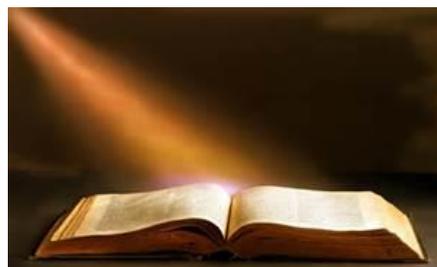


## READING THROUGH THE BIBLE

*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. Remember, you won't understand everything the first time through; just keep going. Each time you do it, it gets easier.

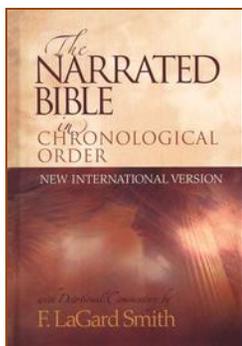


You don't have to follow a schedule, or read the books in order, either. Start with books you are familiar with, or try this: Luke, Acts, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, 1 Corinthians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 2 Corinthians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Mark, Romans, Philemon, Hebrews, James, Matthew, 1 & 2 Peter, John, 1, 2, & 3 John, Jude, Revelation

One possibility for the Old Testament is to read Genesis and Exodus, then skip to Joshua through 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings, then Ezra and Nehemiah. This will give you the historical background for when you go back and read the other books. 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

There is no reason to set a time goal, but if you do, 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. 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. Just continue on at a pace you can maintain; the most important thing is to develop a habit of regular reading. 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/>