

## **A Redemptive-Historical Bible Reading Plan**

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The people of God are a people of the Books. The Book of Nature and the Book of Scripture, aka, General and Special Revelation.

Everyone has always enjoyed access to the Book of Nature, but not everyone has always enjoyed access to the Book of Scripture.

For millennia the people of God had mediated access to the Word of God. They were taught the word of God by prophets and priests and pastors — in their own language, at the temple, in synagogues, in churches, and in the public square. Parents took what they learned from their ministers and taught their children at home.

In some ways, that tradition was altered about 500 years ago when the Scriptures were translated into different languages, printed, disseminated to the masses, and put in the hands of ordinary folks.

Today, ministers of the Word still mediate God's word by teaching and preaching. But non-ministers also have immediate access to God's word in their own personal copies of the Bible. For better or worse, we have a privilege that most of our forefathers did not enjoy; with that privilege comes many advantages — and even more responsibilities.

To keep us from living below our privilege we are often challenged to be daily Bible readers. There are several good reading plans available online, all designed to help us read the whole Bible — usually in one year — one chapter at a time. Some plans are better than others, but all are better than none. Like selecting a translation of the Bible, the best one to use is the one you actually use (provided it is an actual translation and not some interpretive version like the Message\*).

To that end, here is an alternative **Redemptive-Historical Bible reading plan** which I put together for ordinary folks just like you.

It might suit those who —

- feel intimidated by tackling the whole Bible every year
- feel frustrated and guilty for quitting in Leviticus (again!)
- feel overwhelmed with real life and pressed for time

It might also suit those who just enjoy reading more slowly and savoring the words of the living God.

This **Redemptive-Historical Bible reading plan** is intended to help you read the Holy Scriptures forward and backward with a view towards Christ.

If you use this **Redemptive-Historical Bible reading plan**, take your time and enjoy God's word. Seriously! *There is no rush, no pressure, no obligation.* God doesn't even command us to be "daily Bible readers" — rather, he expects us to live by every word that comes from his mouth.

When you finish one cycle, no matter how long it takes, you move on to the next cycle, then the next one, and so forth, until Jesus comes.

Just think: in a year, or two, or thirty, or *whatever*, you will have lived, moved, and breathed in the holy words of God.

The goal is not to finish but to keep on reading and reflecting.

PLAN:

**Cycle One: 237 Chapters**

[Genesis](#)  
[Job 1-10](#)  
[Psalms 1-41](#)  
[Ezekiel](#)  
[Daniel](#)  
[Haggai](#)  
[Zechariah](#)  
[Esther](#)  
[John](#)  
[Revelation](#)  
[1 John](#)  
[2 John](#)  
[3 John](#)

**Cycle Two: 229 Chapters**

[Exodus](#)  
[Joshua](#)  
[1 Samuel](#)  
[2 Samuel](#)  
[Job 11-21](#)  
[Psalms 42-72](#)  
[Ecclesiastes](#)  
[Obadiah](#)  
[Jonah](#)  
[Micah](#)  
[Nahum](#)  
[Mark](#)  
[1 Peter](#)  
[2 Peter](#)  
[Jude](#)  
[Proverbs 1-9](#)

**Cycle Three: 240 Chapters**

[Leviticus](#)  
[Job 22-31](#)  
[Psalms 73-89](#)  
[1 Kings](#)  
[2 Kings](#)  
[Hosea](#)  
[Jeremiah](#)  
[Lamentations](#)  
[Malachi](#)  
[Matthew](#)  
[Hebrews](#)  
[James](#)  
[Proverbs 10-31](#)

**Cycle Four: 216 Chapters**

[Numbers](#)  
[Judges](#)  
[Ruth](#)  
[Job 32-37](#)  
[Psalms 90-106](#)  
[Song of Solomon](#)  
[Joel](#)  
[Amos](#)  
[Habakkuk](#)  
[Luke](#)  
[Acts](#)  
[1 Thessalonians](#)  
[1 Corinthians](#)  
[Galatians](#)  
[2 Corinthians](#)  
[2 Thessalonians](#)  
[Romans](#)

**Cycle Five: 237 Chapters**

[Deuteronomy](#)  
[Job 38-42](#)  
[Psalms 107-150](#)  
[Isaiah](#)  
[Zephaniah](#)  
[Ezra](#)  
[Nehemiah](#)  
[1 Chronicles](#)  
[2 Chronicles](#)  
[Ephesians](#)  
[Philippians](#)  
[Colossians](#)  
[Philemon](#)  
[1 Timothy](#)  
[Titus](#)  
[2 Timothy](#)

## **A Method to the Message**

There are five cycles because I started with the *five* books of the Law, the *five* books of the Psalms, and the “*five*” books of the Gospels. (Actually, there are only four Gospels and Isaiah which is often called the fifth gospel.)

First, I put one book of the Law, Psalms, and Gospels in each cycle according to similar themes and tone. Example, Cycle One has Genesis and John — “In the beginning...”

Next, I tried to match other books to the major books according to similar themes, topics, or tones. Example, Cycle Three combines books addressing predominantly Jewish recipients — Leviticus and Hebrews; 1-2 Kings and Matthew.

Finally, I tried to strike a balance of genre and length between each cycle. Some cycles appear to be longer than others, but keep in mind that the actual length of books and chapters varies.

This **Redemptive-Historical Bible reading plan** is intended to help you read the Holy Scriptures more responsibly and less recklessly with a view towards Christ who is the end-goal of the Bible.