

A “DO IT YOURSELF” PLAN

Reading Through The Bible In A Year

Why not make this the year you finally do it—read through the Bible in a year. You can do it! Here are some of the benefits:

- 1) God promises a blessing to those who read His word (Rev 1:3). In other words, you will find guidance for life.
- 2) You’ll get to know better the One who created you and loves you.
- 3) The Lord will enjoy meeting with you as you read His word.
- 4) You’ll start to fit the big picture together and see patterns of truth you have never known before.
- 5) Your mental health will improve. (Dr. Paul Meyer, psychologist)
- 6) The discipline you exercise in reading the Bible daily will transfer over into other areas of life.

“But, the Bible is so big,” you say, “I could just never do it!” Well, not at one sitting, that’s for sure—but if you divide it up and read a small portion each day, you will be amazed that you really can do it.

There are many plans available and they are all fine. Here is one that is simple, straight forward and balanced: you read from three different sections of the bible each day:

1) **One selection from the Old Testament (OT)**

Divide the total number of pages in your OT by 365. This will tell you roughly how many pages to read each day. This is rough, because you should always read to the nearest chapter break. In my case, that gives me 3.7 pages per day—which works out to roughly 4 pages per day. At that rate, I can even miss a few days and not have to catch up.

2) **One selection from the New Testament (NT)**

Do the same with the NT. My NT has 405 pages. That means if I read 1-2 pages per day, I will finish the NT in a year as well.

3) **One chapter from Psalms or Proverbs**

This one you can do at night before going to sleep. Start with Psalm 1 and go all the way through Proverbs 31. Then repeat. This will mean you will cover these books twice in one year.

A few helpful notes:

- 1) Pick the same time to read each day when you are alert and a place where you will not be easily distracted. I prefer in the morning before my mind is clogged up with other things.
- 2) Don’t get hung up on the genealogies, just skim over them. The same goes for sections where details bog you down.
- 3) The goal is to keep moving. Some days the reading is exciting; other days the reading simply provides background information that helps make other passages exciting. Keep a steady pace.
- 4) Read from a modern translation. Even if you have studied English literature in college, the old King James version can be a hard read. The NIV, New King James or the NASB are all fine translations.
- 5) If you have read through the Bible in a year before, try reading in a different version.
- 6) Don’t sweat it if you miss a day occasionally. This plan has some cushion in it. So if you miss occasionally, you don’t have to double up the next day, just pick up where you left off.
- 7) If it will help, find someone else who will do it as well and check up on each other.
- 8) Don’t forget to mark down on the back page of your bible the date you start. And then when you finish, mark that date down as well (ta-da!)—then go out and celebrate!

Why not make this coming 365 days the year you finally do it!

Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You. Psalm 119:9

Chuck Gianotti, December 2003