

Eight Different Ways to Read the Whole Bible

Ever tried to read the whole Bible? Ever get bored in the middle? You may find better reading plans out there, but here are several that tackle this in different ways:

1. **Read the Bible *Slowly but Steadily*** (“Track 3: Every Word in the Bible”) – A 3-year Plan

This plan offers a less intense, more leisurely walk through the Bible. The goal is to finish in three years, about one chapter per day. Three years is a long commitment, but you will have more time to soak in the material. Plus, the readings alternate between Old Testament and New Testament to keep it fresh. You switch between 2-4 weeks in the Old Testament and one week in the New Testament. It looks like they left out 1 John though, so make sure to slip that in somewhere! <http://www.tniv.com/Experience%20it/docs/3YearsGuidedTour.pdf>

2. **Read the Bible *Quickly*** (“90 Days Through the Bible”) – A 90-Day Plan

This plan will put hair on your chest. You will read the entire Bible in an aggressive ninety days, about 12-14 chapters each day. Naturally, you won’t soak in all the details, but you will get a good sense of what is in the Bible. Many have testified that this experience is incredibly powerful because it helps you get the big picture of the Bible quickly. You can find resources and testimonials for this plan here: http://www.tniv.com/Experience%20it/docs/Strive_90Days.pdf or <http://www.biblein90days.com/>

3. **Read the Bible *With Your Family*** (Robert Murray M’Cheyne Reading Calendar) – A 1-Year Plan

This plan has a historical flare for you history buffs. It was developed by Robert Murray M’Cheyne, a Scottish preacher, in the mid 1800s. The plan offers the unique feature of “family” and “private” readings—an opportunity to develop a family Bible reading habit. Individually, you can make these “morning” and “evening” readings, so you’re beginning and ending your day in God’s Word. <http://web.ukonline.co.uk/d.haslam/mccheyne/calendar/calendar.pdf>

4. **Read the Bible *by Types of Literature*** (“Genres” Bible Reading Plan) – A 1-Year Plan

This idea is probably my personal favorite. Instead of reading the Bible straight through, this plan walks you through the Bible by genres, or types, of literature. Mondays you read from the Law, Tuesdays you read History, Wednesday you read Psalms, Thursday you Poetry, etc. The benefit is that you will get a feel for the different types of literature in the Bible. They all communicate meaning differently, so it’s good to have a handle on this.

http://70030.netministry.com/articles_view.asp?articleid=31623&columnid=3801

5. **Read the Bible *Chronologically*** (as it happened) – A 1-Year Plan

This approach offers an extremely interesting way to read the Bible: *chronologically*. That is, you read through the material in the order in which things happened. You read Moses' psalm along with the Exodus, David's psalms during his lifetime, Solomon's proverbs during his reign, the prophets alongside their respective kings, etc. The one challenge is that you obviously jump around a lot, but the benefit of a chronological perspective is real. Here are two options for this approach: www.biblegateway.com and www.esv.org/biblereadingplans. You can also buy published Bibles laid out chronologically.

6. **Read the Bible *Historically*** (as it was written) – A 1-Year Plan

This reading plan is very unique. Instead of reading the Bible chronologically, here you read it *historically*. That is, you read the books in the order they were written. They may describe events out of order chronologically, but you will get a perspective on which material was written first. Think about it: What parts of the Bible did later biblical authors also read? This approach will help you see that. <http://www.biblegateway.com/resources/readingplans/>

7. **Read the Bible *with One Psalm and Proverb Each Day*** ("Every Day in the Word") – A 1-Year Plan

This plan offers daily variety without jumping around too much. Each day you read from four different books: an Old Testament book, a New Testament book, Psalms, and Proverbs. The benefit here is that each day, alongside the Old and New Testament readings, you read one psalm and one proverb. (One proverb is usually just *one or two verses*.) This will enhance your reading with *daily worship* and *daily wisdom*. <http://www.esv.org/biblereadingplans/>

8. **Read the Bible *Straight Through*** (the traditional approach) – A 1-Year Plan

You can find lots of traditional "straight through" reading plans. Your Bible may have one. Here are a few different ones based on how many books you read at a time:

- Read **one book** at a time with the "Comprehensive Bible Reading Plan (365 days)." Available at <http://www.biblegateway.com/resources/readingplans/comprehensive.php>
- Read **two books** at a time (Old and New Testament) with the "Through the Bible" reading plan: available at <http://www.esv.org/biblereadingplans/>
- Read **three books** at a time with the "Daily Reading Bible" available at <http://www.esv.org/biblereadingplans/>

BY THE WAY: We are happy to link you to resources from other people, ministries, and organizations. Just know that this is not a blanket endorsement of their respective organizations or beliefs. We just think what they have is helpful. Enjoy!