

REVIEW of Part 1:

**I. The Importance of reading the Bible**

**1. God guides us often by leading us to certain bible verses.**

**2. God gives us promises by guiding us to certain bible verses.**

These promises can help us be more patient and have less anxiety about something we were worried about.

**3. While bible reading, God reminds us of things that we have forgotten about.**

We can think things like "Oh, yea, I remember now. God helped Joseph through the mess with his brothers. And, he didn't blame God during the mess..."

**4. Sometimes bible reading reminds us that we are valuing someone, something, including valuing possessions on earth, more than we are valuing God.**

God is the only one who will never leave us or forsake us. Family and close friends are going to someday pass away. We won't have them anymore. Sometimes they will even hurt you. But, God will be the only one who is always there for us. He is one who never wants to hurt you. If you read the bible often, God will lead you to verses that keep reminding you of that.

**NOW is the time to learn how to find answers to life's difficulties.** Do not wait until you are going through your toughest days to learn how to hear from Him. Build up good experiences right now. Then you will be more ready for the future.

**Bible reading will definitely strengthen your faith and walk with God.**

[Romans 10:17](#) (NKJV)

<sup>17</sup> So then **faith comes by hearing**, and **hearing by ---> the word of God.**

[Psalm 119](#) is the longest chapter in the bible. The entire chapter about the importance of God's Word. It poetically uses many different words for the bible, like Your statutes, Your word, Your precepts, etc. [Psalm 119:2](#); [Psalm 119:11](#); [Psalm 119:15](#);

**5. Sometimes, as we read the bible, God will lead us to read something that we are about to experience soon, many times that very same day.**

**B.P.Q.C.** - Bible reading, Prayer to God, Quiet time to hear from God, and Church.

**II. Bible Resources:** Journaling bibles, Study Bibles, a new type of Study Bible, Bible Notes Journals, and Prayer Journals.

### **III. Bible Translations**

Today:

**IV. 5 Bible Reading Plans + YouVersion Bible App.**

**V. Devotional books**

**VI. Topical Bible studies**

**Summary thoughts of the 2 part series**

**IV. 5 Bible Reading Plans + YouVersion bible app:** (*If you want more plans, do a search online for "Bible reading plans."*)

**Plan 1 - Read the Bible from beginning to end - all of the Old Testament first, then all of the New Testament.**  
Figure out some way of marking where you last left off.

**Plan 2 - Read some of the Old Testament one day, & some of the New Testament the next day.** This is the way I did it years ago. Generally, you will need to read about twice as many verses in the Old Testament as compared to the New Testament in order to stay on pace. (approx 2 chapters to 1 chapter)

**Plan 3 - Read a different category of the Bible each of the 7 days a week.**  
[www.Bible-Reading.com](http://www.Bible-Reading.com)

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:ef78547e-bd9c-4a00-83e0-f4f8f237d5eb>

If you print off the above pdf plan, you can mark them off on the printout as you read them each day. I have copies of this plan already printed off for today.

**Day 1 - The Epistles** Romans, I & II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I & II Thesalonians, I & II Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, I & II Peter, I, II, & III John, Jude  
(the above are *mainly written by Paul, Peter, John*)

**Day 2 - The Law** The first 5 books of the Bible, *written by Moses*

<b>Day 3 - History</b>	Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I & II Samuel, I & II Kings, I & II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther
<b>Day 4 - Psalms</b>	Psalms
<b>Day 5 - Poetry</b>	Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon
<b>Day 6 - Prophecy</b>	Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel <i>(usually called the Major prophets)</i>  Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi. <i>(usually called the Minor prophets)</i>  then also in the N.T. - in Revelation
<b>Day 7 - Gospels</b>	Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, AND Acts

**Plan 4 - A reading from the Old Testament,** starting at the beginning

**A reading from the New Testament,** starting at the beginning

**A reading from Psalms each day** *(You will end up reading Psalms twice)*

**A reading from Proverbs each day** *(You will read it through once)*

#### JANUARY

- |                                    |                                 |                             |                               |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. <a href="#">Gen. 1:1-2:25;</a>  | <a href="#">Matt. 1:1-2:12;</a> | <a href="#">Ps. 1:1-6;</a>  | <a href="#">Prov. 1:1-6</a>   |
| 2. <a href="#">Gen. 3:1-4:26;</a>  | <a href="#">Matt. 2:13-3:6;</a> | <a href="#">Ps. 2:1-12;</a> | <a href="#">Prov.1:7-9</a>    |
| 3. <a href="#">Gen. 5:1-7:24;</a>  | <a href="#">Matt. 3:7-4:11;</a> | <a href="#">Ps. 3:1-8;</a>  | <a href="#">Prov. 1:10-19</a> |
| 4. <a href="#">Gen. 8:1-10:32;</a> | <a href="#">Matt. 4:12-25;</a>  | <a href="#">Ps. 4:1-8;</a>  | <a href="#">Prov. 1:20-23</a> |

*(I have some copies of this plan already printed off for today)*

#### **Plan 5 - Chronological reading of the Bible**

The 66 books of the Bible are listed in the Bible in the order of categories, not in the order that they actually occurred. So, what some scholars have done is to try to go through each book to find WHEN they occurred.

A Chronological reading is just that. You will read the Bible as everything

occurred. So, you might read Genesis chapter 6, then go to I Chronicles. Or, in the case of I Samuel you will be reading about David and all of a sudden you are reading in the Psalms. You will be reading the Psalm David wrote about the event you are reading about in I Samuel.

This had to have been difficult for scholars to put together because, like in the case of the book of Job, it isn't totally clear as to when it did occur. But, most scholars believe, because of the descriptions of events in Job, that Job lived just before Abraham. So, you will be reading in Job, and then come up on the story of Abraham in Genesis. It is fascinating to do this kind of reading.

You can do a search online and find a print out of a chronological plan OR BUY:

1. **"The ESV Chronological Bible"** (\$30)

One Year Chronological Bibles:

2. **"The One Year Chronological Bible"** (\$17 - Available in NIV, NLT, NKJV)

This book takes the entire Bible in exact order as it happened. It is already there so you do not have to look up each passage that you will see on the handout sheet.

3. **"Study Guide for One Year Chronological Bible"** (paperback \$35, 2 books)

4. **"The One Year Bible Journal"** (\$16) A guided bible reading plan in Chronological order with space to write scripture notes, prayers, and gratitude.

You may just want to buy a regular journal to write notes with whatever plan you choose.

5. **If you want a free guide**, consider downloading an app called **YouVersion**. They have a section called "Find Plans." The One Year Chronological Bible" is one of the plans for free. They also have most of the major bibles that you can download onto your YouVersion app. It also has a button you can push that makes it read the bible to you.

These last 3, number 6, 7, and 8 are Chronological studies that also have study notes:

6. **"One Year Chronological Study Bible"** (\$25-35 This is also a Study Bible in NLT, NIV, NKJV)

7. **"Chronological Study Bible"** (NIV - \$25, and NKJV- \$25)

8. **"Chronological Life Application Study Bible"** (\$33-\$68 - only available in NLT) NLT) This has *incredible* study notes.

## Suggestions about One Year plans

Most Bible reading plans are designed so that you read the Bible in one year. The problem with that is that you may have to read about 3 chapters of the Bible every day for a year in order to accomplish this. For people who love to read, or people who have that much time to read, this may not be a problem. But, for those who do not love to read, or for those who don't have as much time, or for those who have unexpected things come up in their schedule, that will be a lot more difficult.

The other problem with trying to read the Bible through in one year is that 95% of the plans have you reading 7 days a week, 365 days a year, never skipping a day. Even though it's probably a good idea to read every single day, we all have emergencies in our lives, or days that are more chaotic, and soon you may find yourself behind in your schedule. Think about this, if you miss 2 days of reading for example, when you get back to reading the Bible, you now need to read 9 chapters to catch up.

The other problem with trying to read the Bible through in one year is that there may be a tendency to rush through the chapters to say that you are doing it, and to say that you are staying "on schedule".

The problem with all of this rushing, is it is more important to **study and think about the Bible** AS you read it, then to rush through it. Rushing through the bible might teach you the some of what the Bible is about, but, you will not get to apply the Bible to your lives as well. We need to read the Bible, and then constantly ask God to show us how it applies to our lives.

For ex: the story of the disciples in a boat and big waves came and they were about to sink when suddenly Jesus appeared on the water.

You can read that story and see what happened and never realize that this story relates to us. So, if you hurried through that story, you missed a lot of things. Sure, you read the story, but applying it to your life was not there. That story shows us how God interacts with us. As you look closer at the story, you see that the disciples headed a certain direction that Jesus told them to go. But, as they did so, they were alone. They had no idea they were going to experience something that could have killed them all. And, Jesus actually waited in the story to rescue them at the last minute. Plus, in reality, they ended up being re-directed to go in another direction. There are even more things to learn from that story. But, to do so, you have to slow down and think about the story, rather than hurry through it because you are trying to read the bible in one year.

So, I suggest:

DO NOT TRY TO BE ON A HURRY PLAN OF READING ALL OF THE

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR unless you love to read, or unless you are willing to turn off the TV set almost entirely, and unless when you have emergencies, you have time to make up for the reading time you missed.

Last note: Whatever plan you choose to do for reading the bible, do not be afraid to leave the plan for one day to do a thumb through the bible technique to see if God is needing to show you something that you are experiencing right now, or about to experience.

## V. Devotional books

Typical devotional books are one or two short pages of a thought about God, or something people typically are experiencing that is tough on them, and what God thinks about it.

If your goal is to grow deep and remember bible verses as you study, I'm not sure devotional books are going to accomplish that.

What I believe they do is:

1. Helps us when our schedule is chaotic & a quick devotional lesson is helpful.
2. Provide an encouraging thought when we really need it.
3. Sometimes give us a good challenge on how we should live.

I just recently purchased the "Experiencing God Day by Day" devotional. I have the book copy and I also bought the Kindle download. So far, the thoughts in it are very inspiring.

If you pick a devotional book to buy, use the thumb through technique to see if good insights keep jumping out at you. God can guide you to the one you need.

But, if you can possibly do it, use one of the other methods for your bible study time.

## VI. Doing Topical Studies

You can use, what is called, a Bible Concordance. It has all the verses in the bible that contain the word, for example, "peace," "faith," "trust," "fear," "Spirit or Holy Spirit," "humility / pride," "truth," "prayer," "wisdom," "promises of God," (*Strongs Concordance is approx \$25*)

**Or, you can do a search online** by typing in "Bible verses on peace." With that, you will probably not get every verse on that topic. You will be finding individuals who have compiled the verses themselves. When I have done that type of search, I look at many different groups of verses by different people to be sure I am not missing a good verse. I read the verses, then copy and paste my favorite verses or ones that I feel are very important to the topic I am studying, to a file I create on my phone, tablet, or computer.

I use a Note app called ColorNote. I have the app on my phone and my tablet. I prefer this app because when I type something in on my phone, it automatically gets recorded onto my tablet ColorNote file, as well.

Topical studies teach you **a whole lot** about one particular subject. If you did, let's say, 10 topics a year, you would learn a huge amount about the bible in one year. If you also filed your favorite verses in an app from that study, you would have an incredible resource by the end of the year. AND, when you feel down about anything in life, you can go look at your resource files to find verses that help you.

## **Conclusion -**

Over this 2 part series, we have looked at Bible resources so we can study better. Using these items are vitally important to your growth in life. And, they will also prepare you for future difficulties. Keep in mind that what you do today is what you're going to refer back to when you encounter future frustrations/problems. You need a history of getting answers in your life. That is what you should be doing now, creating a history of closeness to God, a history of watching Him answer prayers, a history of seeing how He gave you bible verses to guide you are help your frustrations. And, you learned how to hear from Him better. In essence, you learn to see that God has to be more important than all other people in your life, as well as more important than all other things.

One final note: I buy a lot from Amazon or Ebay, whichever is cheaper. Sometimes I pay slightly more on Amazon because I'm not sure if I will like something. Amazon is easy to return items you buy. I just take the return item to The UPS Store in Republic. I am in and out of there in about 1 minutes. But, [www.christianbook.com](http://www.christianbook.com) is also an online place that can be very reasonable on prices, and can beat out Amazon and Ebay on prices.

Then, "Redeemed CPO" in Springfield is normally fairly reasonable on prices. They have both used and new items. And, even at Mardels in Springfield you can also get some good buys. We are lucky enough to live in an area that has local bible resources.