

DAILY BIBLE READINGS 2024

A CHRONOLOGICAL READING OF THE WHOLE BIBLE

MARCH

THE 2ND GIVING OF THE LAW • ENTERING THE PROMISED LAND • THE JUDGES • RUTH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					01 Numbers 27-30 <i>Kids: Numbers 23:27 to 24:14</i>	02 Numbers 31-32 <i>Kids: Numbers 27</i>
03 Numbers 33-35 <i>Kids: Numbers 32</i>	04 Numbers 36† 1 Chronicles 2 <i>Kids: Deuteronomy 1</i>	05 *Deuteronomy 1-2 <i>Kids: Deuteronomy 2</i>	06 Deuteronomy 3-4 <i>Kids: Deuteronomy 4:1-40</i>	07 Deuteronomy 5-7 <i>Kids: Deuteronomy 5</i>	08 Deuteronomy 8-11 <i>Kids: Deuteronomy 6</i>	09 Deuteronomy 12-15 <i>Kids: Deuteronomy 7-8</i>
10 Deuteronomy 16-19 <i>Kids: Deuteronomy 9</i>	11 Deuteronomy 20-23 <i>Kids: Deuteronomy 10</i>	12 Deuteronomy 24-27 <i>Kids: Deuteronomy 11</i>	13 Deuteronomy 28-29 <i>Kids: Deuteronomy 28:1-14, Deuteronomy 30</i>	14 Deuteronomy 30-32 <i>Kids: Deuteronomy 31:1-13, 32:48-52, 34</i>	15 Deuteronomy 33-34† *Joshua 1-3 <i>Kids: Joshua 1-2</i>	16 Joshua 4-6 <i>Kids: Joshua 3-4</i>
17 Joshua 7-9 <i>Kids: Joshua 5:13 to 6:27</i>	18 Joshua 10-12 <i>Kids: Joshua 8:30 to 9:27</i>	19 Joshua 13-15 <i>Kids: Joshua 10:1-15, Joshua 14:6-15</i>	20 Joshua 16-19 <i>Kids: Joshua 22</i>	21 Joshua 20-22 <i>Kids: Joshua 24</i>	22 Joshua 23-24† *Judges 1 <i>Kids: Judges 2</i>	23 Judges 2-3 <i>Kids: Judges 3</i>
24 / 31 Judges 4-5 <i>Kids: Judges 4</i> *Ruth† <i>Kids: Ruth 3-4</i>	25 Judges 6-8 <i>Kids: Judges 6</i>	26 Judges 9 <i>Kids: Judges 7</i>	27 Judges 10-12 <i>Kids: Judges 13-14</i>	28 Judges 13-16 <i>Kids: Judges 16</i>	29 Judges 17-19 <i>Kids: Ruth 1</i>	30 Judges 20-21† <i>Kids: Ruth 2</i>

* beginning a new book † completed this book—Congratulations!

Can't read the whole Bible this year? Read one new book of the Bible!

- Numbers — February 19 to March 4, about 3½ hours
- 1 Chronicles — January (chapter 1) + March 4 + April/May/September, about 2 hours
- Deuteronomy — March 5-15, about 2 hours
- Joshua — March 15-22, about 1½ hours
- Judges — March 22-30, about 1½ hours
- Ruth — March 31, about 15 minutes

NOTES ON THIS MONTH'S READINGS...

WEEK 9 (February 26 to March 4) — PREPARING TO ENTER THE PROMISED LAND

Date: about July 1407 to January 1406 BC

The Story: God has rescued Israel from slavery in Egypt and sustained his people for forty years in the wilderness. Now, at last, Israel moves toward and arrives at the edge of the promised land, Canaan. In these pivotal months, the Moabites attempt a spiritual attack on Israel; another census is conducted; arrangements are made for Israel's future leadership; various regulations are given or restated; two and a half tribes receive their land early, outside the promised land; boundaries of the land to be taken are established; and various preparations are made for life and property in the promised land. This week's readings complete the book of Numbers and touch on more genealogies from this time period in 1 Chronicles. They also include Psalm 90, the Bible's one psalm (a type of song) authored by Moses.

WEEK 10 (March 5-11) — THE LAW RESTATED

Date: January 1406 BC

The Story: God has brought Israel to the edge of the promised land. Moses—120 years old—is soon to die. In his final speeches to Israel, which make up most of Deuteronomy, he reminds Israel of God's laws for their young nation. He urges them, as they settle in their new land soon, to love God, to fear him, and to demonstrate both their love and their fear by obeying his commands. Then they will be richly blessed by him. Deuteronomy means "second law" and is named for this restating of the law to this second generation of Israelites, who are about to receive the land that God promised their ancestor Abraham he would give to them (Genesis 15).

WEEK 11 (March 12-18) — ENTERING THE PROMISED LAND

Date: about January 1406 to 1400 BC

The Story: God is the focus of Moses' final words to Israel before he dies. He presents God's covenant with the people once again—the covenant that promises God's blessings if Israel is faithful to him and punishment if Israel is not. This was standard language for nations' covenants with their kings at this time. After final blessings, Moses dies. As we begin the book of Joshua, Joshua leads Israel into the promised land at last, but it is clearly God who is in command. Israel experiences both victory and defeat as they encounter the Canaanites—victory when they obey God, defeat when they don't. By God's power, Israel conquers much (but not all) of the promised land. Watch for signs of faithfulness in Israel during this time, and also for hints of trouble to come. Even with all its victories from God, Israel is not always consistent in its faithfulness. This week's readings end with several chapters of lists of the regions conquered so far.

WEEK 12 (March 19-25) — FAITHFULNESS AND UNFAITHFULNESS IN THE PROMISED LAND

Date: about 1400 to perhaps roughly 1152 BC

The Story: God has been faithful to Israel, fulfilling his promise to Abraham to give his descendants the land of Canaan (Genesis 12:7). But will Israel be faithful to God? After Israel completes the allotment of the promised land to its twelve tribes, Joshua speaks to Israel one last time, calling the people to serve no other gods but the one who rescued them from Egypt. Then Joshua dies, and for a while Israel remains faithful to God. Eventually, though, Israel's faith falters; the people repeatedly do what is evil in the eyes of the Lord (watch for this recurring theme in Judges). What will God do? Will he abandon these unfaithful people? Will he ignore their sin and let it continue unabated? Neither! God, like a loving parent, disciplines his people and restores them. But will they learn the lesson he is trying to teach them?

WEEK 13 (March 26 to April 1) — THE LATER JUDGES

Date: perhaps roughly 1177 to roughly 1090 BC

The Story: God continues to send judges to rescue Israel from its enemies. But even these judges are not always godly people. In fact, Israel descends into greater and greater disorder, epitomized by the final two stories in Judges (chapters 17-21), the last of which is one of the most horrific stories in the Bible. But there is hope! Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz in the book of Ruth stand as exemplars of godly people in Israel. And Samuel himself (in 1 Samuel), a future prophet and leader of God's people, is born from godly parents. So this period in Israel's history reveals two starkly contrasting ways of life existing in Israel simultaneously: unfaithfulness and shocking sin in one, and refreshing godliness and courageous faithfulness in the other. Most of all, the God who blessed Abraham and loves Israel continues to demonstrate both sternness and patience toward his people.