

DAILY BIBLE READINGS 2024

A CHRONOLOGICAL READING OF THE WHOLE BIBLE

MAY

DAVID'S LATER YEARS, REIGN OF SOLOMON, SOLOMON'S WISDOM

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			01	02	03	04
			2 Samuel 20-22 <i>Kids: 1 Chronicles 21:1 to 22:1, Psalm 42</i>	1 Chronicles 20 Psalm 18 2 Samuel 23 <i>Kids: Psalm 18, 2 Samuel 23:1-7</i>	2 Samuel 24† 1 Chronicles 21-22 <i>Kids: 1 Kings 1</i>	Psalm 37 *1 Kings 1 <i>Kids: Psalms 43-44</i>
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
1 Chronicles 23-25 <i>Kids: Psalms 45-47</i>	Psalms 42-46 <i>Kids: Psalms 48-49</i>	Psalms 47-49 Psalms 84-85 <i>Kids: Psalms 84-85</i>	Psalms 87-88 Psalm 50, 73, 75-76 <i>Kids: Psalms 87, 75-76</i>	Psalms 77-78 Psalm 81 <i>Kids: Psalms 77, 81-82</i>	Psalms 82-83 1 Chronicles 26-27 <i>Kids: Psalm 30, 1 Chronicles 28</i>	Psalm 30 1 Chronicles 28-29 <i>Kids: 1 Chronicles 29</i>
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1 Kings 2-4 <i>Kids: 1 Kings 3, 4:29-34</i>	*2 Chronicles 1 1 Kings 5-6 <i>Kids: 2 Chronicles 2-3</i>	2 Chronicles 2-3 1 Kings 7 <i>Kids: 1 Kings 7:1-40</i>	2 Chronicles 4 1 Kings 8 <i>Kids: 1 Kings 8:1-21, 8:62-66</i>	1 Kings 9 2 Chronicles 5-6 <i>Kids: 1 Kings 9</i>	2 Chronicles 7-8 *Proverbs 1 <i>Kids: Proverbs 1</i>	Proverbs 2-5 <i>Kids: Proverbs 3</i>
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Proverbs 6-8 <i>Kids: Proverbs 4, 6:1-19</i>	Proverbs 9-11 <i>Kids: Proverbs 10</i>	Proverbs 12-14 <i>Kids: Proverbs 12</i>	Proverbs 15-17 <i>Kids: Proverbs 15</i>	Proverbs 18-20 <i>Kids: Proverbs 18</i>	Proverbs 21-23 <i>Kids: Proverbs 22:17-29, 23:4-25</i>	Proverbs 24-26 <i>Kids: Proverbs 26</i>
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Proverbs 27-29 <i>Kids: Proverbs 27</i>	Proverbs 30-31† *Ecclesiastes 1-2 <i>Kids: Proverbs 31</i>	Ecclesiastes 3-6 <i>Kids: Ecclesiastes 1, 4:9-12, 5:8-20</i>	Ecclesiastes 7-10 <i>Kids: Ecclesiastes 7:8-14, 8:1-6, 9:13 to 10:20</i>	Ecclesiastes 11-12†, *Song of Songs 1-3 <i>Kids: Ecclesiastes 11-12</i>	Song of Songs 4-8† <i>Kids: Psalms 72, 127</i>	

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

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

This month:

- 2 Samuel — April + May 1-3, about 1½ hours
- 1 Chronicles — January + March-April + May 2-11 + September, about 2 hours
- Psalms — February + April + May 2-11 + June + August-October, about 5½ hours
- 1 Kings — May 4 & 12-16 + June, about 2 hours
- 2 Chronicles — May 13-17 + June-September, about 2 hours
- Proverbs — May 17-27, about 2 hours
- Ecclesiastes — May 27-30, about ½ hour
- Song of Songs — May 30-31, about ½ hour

NOTES ON THIS MONTH'S READINGS...

WEEK 18 (April 30 to May 6) — DAVID'S LATER YEARS

Date: mostly roughly 984-970 BC (some portions come from any time in David's reign, about 1010-970 BC) • the psalms of the Sons of Korah probably come from about 970 BC or later

The Story: God never leaves David, even through another rebellion, another costly sin committed by David, and an attempted coup. And David, though flawed, continues to serve and praise God. He prepares for the construction of the temple and for Israel's worship there. He elevates Solomon to the throne as his co-regent. God, for his part, continues to correct David as needed and to bless all the good David does.

WEEK 19 (May 7-13) — SOLOMON'S REIGN BEGINS

Date: about 970-966 BC • sections containing overviews of David's reign include material from about 1010-970 BC
• sections containing overviews of Solomon's reign include material from about 970-930 BC

The Story: God blesses Israel with a smooth transition of power from David to his son, Solomon. David and Solomon both respond with noble devotion to God: David as he calls his nation and young King Solomon to faith and arranges for the building of the temple and for the worship of God there; Solomon as he seeks a heart of wisdom over riches, victory, or long life, so that he may lead God's people well. This week's readings include more psalms written by the Sons of Korah and introduce a collection of psalms written by Asaph (or his descendants). It also brings us a psalm composed by David for the dedication of the temple.

WEEK 20 (May 14-20) — SOLOMON'S WISDOM, PART 1

Date: about 970-930 BC (Proverbs and the summaries of Solomon's reign and activities) • about 970 to after 946 BC (the narratives in 1 Kings 7-9 and 2 Chronicles 2-8)

The Story: God is honored as Solomon completes the temple and dedicates it with prayer and celebration. But God's pleasure in the temple and the king is not absolute: he blesses both, but with the stipulation that Solomon and his people must continue to walk faithfully before God. Will they? Time will tell. Meanwhile, God has endowed Solomon with exceptional wisdom, one sign of which is the three thousand proverbs he writes during his lifetime (1 Kings 4:29-34). Many of those are collected in the Bible's book of Proverbs. It begins with poems teaching principles for wise living and some short proverbs (chapters 1-9), then moves into a collection of more short proverbs (10:1 to 22:16) identified as "The proverbs of Solomon" (10:1).

WEEK 21 (May 21-27) — SOLOMON'S WISDOM, PART 2

Date: about 930-970 BC (the mention of King Hezekiah in Proverbs 25:1 indicates that Proverbs came into its final form no earlier than his reign, about 715-686 BC)

The Story: God continues to teach Israel godly wisdom through the words of Solomon in the books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. Both contain a combination of short proverbs and longer teachings; most are attributed to Solomon, though Proverbs also includes passages from other wise teachers, as well ("the wise," 22:17, 24:23; Agur, 30:1; Lemuel, from his mother, 31:1). A second collection of Solomon's proverbs, "compiled by the men of Hezekiah king of Judah" around the late 700s BC, is included in Proverbs (25:1). Proverbs offers general teaching on how to live wisely. Ecclesiastes is more focused in its purpose: it explores the meaning and purpose of life, particularly apart from God. Does life without God ultimately have any meaning?

WEEK 22 (May 28 to June 3) — ISRAEL IS DIVIDED

Date: about 946-930 BC (some texts provide summaries from Solomon's reign, about 970-930 BC) • Song of Songs and Solomon's two psalms (72 and 127) come from sometime during Solomon's reign, about 970-930 BC • Ecclesiastes likely comes from late in Solomon's reign, perhaps between 946 and 930 BC

The Story: God has blessed Israel through Solomon—but Solomon proves unfaithful to God. So God removes most of Israel from the control of David's descendants. Is Israel doomed? Will its faith endure? What will happen to David's dynasty? Faith and faithlessness collide as the kings lead their people sometimes toward God and sometimes away from him. Hope endures as long as the people of Israel and Judah look to God. This week's readings cover the last of Solomon's wisdom writings, his two psalms, and the story of his fall and the tragic breakup of Israel.