

# DAILY BIBLE READINGS 2024

## A CHRONOLOGICAL READING OF THE WHOLE BIBLE

# SEPTEMBER

EZEKIEL, DANIEL, THE RETURN FROM EXILE, ESTHER, NEHEMIAH

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

01	02	03	04	05	06	07
<b>Psalm 137</b> <b>Ezekiel 25-27</b> <i>Kids: Psalm 89:1-37</i>	<b>Ezekiel 28</b> <b>Ezekiel 32</b> <i>Kids: Psalm 102</i>	<b>Ezekiel 34-36</b> <i>Kids: Ezekiel 34</i>	<b>Ezekiel 37-39</b> <i>Kids: Ezekiel 37</i>	<b>*Obadiah†, 1 Chronicles 3-4</b> <i>Kids: 1 Chronicles 3</i>	<b>1 Chronicles 5-6</b> <i>Kids: Ezekiel 42:1 to 43:5</i>	<b>1 Chronicles 7</b> <b>Ezekiel 40</b> <i>Kids: Ezekiel 47</i>
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
<b>Ezekiel 41-44</b> <i>Kids: Ezekiel 48</i>	<b>Ezekiel 45-47</b> <i>Kids: Daniel 4:1-18</i>	<b>Ezekiel 48†</b> <b>Daniel 4</b> <i>Kids: Daniel 4:19-37</i>	<b>Daniel 7-8</b> <b>Daniel 5</b> <i>Kids: Daniel 5</i>	<b>Daniel 9, 2 Chronicles 36:22-23†, *Ezra 1</b> <i>Kids: 2 Chronicles 36:22-23, Ezra 1-2</i>	<b>Ezra 2</b> <b>Daniel 6</b> <b>Psalm 126</b> <i>Kids: Daniel 6</i>	<b>Daniel 10-12†</b> <i>Kids: Ezra 3:1 to 4:5</i> <i>Ezra 4:24</i>
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<b>Ezra 3:1 to 4:5</b> <b>Ezra 4:24</b> <b>*Haggai†</b> <i>Kids: Haggai</i>	<b>*Zechariah 1-6</b> <i>Kids: Zechariah 1</i>	<b>Zechariah 7-8</b> <b>Ezra 5-6</b> <i>Kids: Zechariah 3-5</i>	<b>*Joel†</b> <i>Kids: Esther 1</i>	<b>Zechariah 9-12</b> <i>Kids: Esther 2</i>	<b>Zechariah 13-14†</b> <b>1 Chronicles 8-9†</b> <i>Kids: Esther 3-4</i>	<b>*Esther 1-4</b> <i>Kids: Esther 5-6</i>
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<b>Esther 5-10†</b> <i>Kids: Esther 7-8</i>	<b>Ezra 4:6-23</b> <b>Ezra 7-8</b> <i>Kids: Esther 9-10</i>	<b>Ezra 9-10†</b> <b>Nehemiah 1-2</b> <i>Kids: Nehemiah 1-2</i>	<b>Nehemiah 3-5</b> <i>Kids: Nehemiah 4-5</i>	<b>Nehemiah 6-8</b> <i>Kids: Nehemiah 6:1 to 7:3</i>	<b>Nehemiah 9-10</b> <i>Kids: Nehemiah 8</i>	<b>Nehemiah 11-13</b> <i>Kids: Nehemiah 13</i>
29	30					
<b>*Malachi†</b> <i>Kids: Malachi 3:6 to 4:6</i>	<b>Psalms 1, 33, 66-67, 71, 91</b> <i>Kids: Psalms 1, 33, 66</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:*

- Psalms — February + April-May + June + August + September 1 & 13 & 30 + October, about 5½ hours
- Ezekiel — August + September 1-4 & 8-10, about 3 hours
- Obadiah — September 5, about 4 minutes
- 1 Chronicles — January + March-April + May + September 5-7 & 20, about 2 hours
- Daniel — August + September 10-14, about 1 hour
- 2 Chronicles — May-July + August + September 12, about 2 hours
- Ezra — September 12-13 & 15 & 17 & 23-24, about 40 minutes
- Haggai — September 15, about 5 minutes
- Zechariah — September 16-20, about 30 minutes
- Joel — September 18, about 15 minutes
- Esther — September 21-22, about 30 minutes
- Malachi — September 29, about 10 minutes

## NOTES ON THIS MONTH'S READINGS...

### WEEK 35 (August 27 to September 2) — AFTERMATH OF JERUSALEM'S FALL

*Date:* 586-585 BC

*The Story:* God, through the army of Babylon, has destroyed Judah and Jerusalem and even his sacred temple. God's people are left to weep and to wonder why this happened—and whether they might still have any hope. This week's readings share the sad aftermath of Jerusalem's fall, described and grieved in Lamentations. Then we read about Jeremiah's efforts to guide the Jews remaining in Judah in God's instruction—but will they listen? We read six psalms that were likely written around this time and that call out to God for mercy and help after his judgment. Then we finish with prophecies from Ezekiel against various nations that opposed Judah.

### WEEK 36 (September 3-9) — MESSAGES OF HOPE FOR THE JEWISH EXILES

*Date:* probably roughly 585-560 BC • The genealogies of 1 Chronicles 3-7 span nearly the entire existence of Israel up to this time, from the time of Abraham's great-grandsons (ca. 1900 BC) to the century after the Babylonian exile (400s BC).

*The Story:* God has disciplined his people for their sin, but he has not abandoned them. Through Ezekiel he speaks words of hope, telling them of a bright future in which Israel, Jerusalem, and God's temple will be restored and God and his blessing will dwell forever with his people. Meanwhile, Obadiah proclaims God's judgment against Edom for its delight in the fall of Jerusalem and Judah. In this reading we also peruse genealogies from the tribes of Israel and the royal family of David.

### WEEK 37 (September 10-16) — THE RETURN FROM EXILE

*Date:* the 570s BC to 519 BC

*The Story:* God, who sent his people into exile, never leaves them, but reveals himself to their Babylonian overlords and hints of their future to Daniel. Then, as God had foretold, the king of Persia conquers Babylon and decrees that the Jews in Babylonian captivity may return to their homeland and rebuild God's temple. Life is still difficult: in Babylon, Daniel's life is threatened, and in the homeland, the temple rebuilding effort is stalled. But Daniel is saved, and two prophets urge the Jews to complete the rebuilding of God's temple.

### WEEK 38 (September 17-23) — GOD'S PEOPLE IN THE HOMELAND AND FAR AWAY

*Date:* 520-483 BC

*The Story:* God continues to help his people after the return from exile. Many Jews have returned to Israel, but others remain in faraway lands. Joel and Zechariah prophesy to both encourage and warn God's people. A Jewish woman, Esther, becomes queen of Persia and must risk her life to save her people. Later, Ezra relocates to Jerusalem to help his people obey God's laws.

### WEEK 39 (September 24-30) — STRENGTHENING THE FAITH AND SECURITY OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*Date:* 457 to about 400 BC • The dates of the psalms in this section are unknown (most likely from between 1020 and 400 BC)

*The Story:* God continues to bless, correct, and guide his people as the Old Testament period winds down. Nehemiah and Ezra work to build up Jerusalem and its defenses and to enact reforms, increasing the city's security even as they refresh its relationship with God. But troubles persist among Jews who are not fully faithful to God; many are violating God's laws. Nehemiah, Ezra, and Malachi confront them, standing as godly leaders (both political and religious) to warn, teach, and lead his people back to him. Where in centuries past the political and religious leaders of Israel and Judah were often ungodly and corrupt, these leaders serve God faithfully, and so their people have hope. After completing the historical and prophetic readings of the Old Testament, we return to Psalms, reading psalms written at unknown times in the Old Testament period.