

## Read the Word Daily for your Soul

I'm excited to read through the Bible again this year. Why? Because it keeps my focus on Jesus. When I don't receive the word of God day by day, my faith weakens, my love fades, and my witness diminishes. I've found that there is nothing like a regular, substantial intake of the word to nourish my spiritual life. That normally means reading through the entire Bible at least one time per year.

Some struggle with this since it requires a long-term persistence. When you fall behind, you are tempted to just give up. This is why I love the plan that we are using this year. You'll only have assigned readings for 25 days out of each month. This will allow 5-6 days each month to catch up, get ahead, or read elsewhere. This year's plan also balances out reading from different portions of Scripture. It provides two readings for each day. The first reading alternates between Old and New Testament books. The second reading takes you through a chapter of the wisdom literature and Isaiah.

Since you'll be reading along with others in our church, it will be easier to discuss what you are reading with other believers. Sharing your insights and questions will greatly encourage others to dive into God's life-giving Word.

Blessings on your reading!

Pastor Jack

Psalm 1:2

# Introduction to Exodus

The Israelites remained in Egypt for about 400 years. During those centuries they multiplied so rapidly that the Pharaohs came to fear them. In time there came a Pharaoh who transformed their Egyptian asylum into a ghetto and planned the gradual extermination of the entire Hebrew people. Exodus is the story of how God used Moses and Aaron not only to foil Pharaoh's plots but to bring the Hebrews out of Egypt and on to Mount Sinai in the Arabian peninsula.



The story is in three parts. We see God *saving* His people by sending Moses, armed with a mandate and with mighty power, to break Pharaoh's hold on the children of Israel. Salvation itself ultimately hinged on the slaying of the Passover lamb. Then we see God separating His people by taking them out of Egypt and across the Red Sea into the wilderness. Finally we see God *sanctifying* His people by giving them the Law and teaching them how His people should behave. The law He gave them covered all that was needful for their walk through and worship in the wilderness

# Introduction to Acts

Acts picks up where Luke's Gospel leaves off, recording the early progress of the gospel as Jesus' disciples took it from Jerusalem

throughout Judea, Samaria, and the rest of the Mediterranean world. The story begins with Christ's ascension and the events of Pentecost. As Gentiles begin responding to the gospel, the focus



shifts to Paul and his missionary journeys. Acts forms a bridge between the four Gospels and the rest of the New Testament, showing how the apostles carried on Christ's work and providing a historical background for Romans through Revelation. The Acts of the Apostles is the second of two New Testament books written by Luke. Like his Gospel, Acts was a letter to Luke's friend Theophilus, written sometime in AD 62-64.

## Introduction to Leviticus

Leviticus begins with the people of Israel at the foot of Mount Sinai. The glory of the Lord had just filled the tabernacle (Ex. 40:34-38)



and God now tells Moses to instruct the Levitical priests and the people of Israel concerning sacrifices, worship, the priesthood, ceremonial cleanness, the Day of Atonement, feasts and holy days, and the Year of Jubilee.

The central message is that God is holy and he requires his people to be holy and gives them specific instructions as to what that looks like. The book also shows that God graciously provides atonement for sin through the shedding of blood.

Moses is the writer of the book of Leviticus, writing sometime after giving the law.

## Introduction to Hebrews

The letter to the Hebrews was written to encourage Christians in a time of trial. It does so by focusing on the absolute supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus Christ. While God spoke in the past "many times and in many ways," he has now spoken to us "by his Son," Jesus Christ, who is the "exact imprint" of God's nature and who "upholds the universe by the word of his power" (1:1-3). Jesus accomplished complete salvation for all who trust in him (1:1-10:18). We dare not "neglect such a great salvation" (2:3; 5:12-6:20; 10:19-39). Rather, in our faith and in our everyday living, we should imitate the example of Christ and of those on the honor roll of faith (chs. 11-13). This letter, whose author is unknown, was probably written between AD 60 and 70.



## Introduction to Numbers

The English title "Numbers" comes from the two censuses that are central features of this book; however, the Hebrew title, "In the Wilderness," is more descriptive of the book. Numbers tells how God's people traveled from Mount Sinai to the border of the Promised Land. When they refused to take possession of their promised land out of fear of its inhabitants, God made them wander in the wilderness for nearly forty years. Throughout the book, God is seen as both holy and faithful. God's holiness is evident in that he cannot ignore rebellion or unbelief and allow them to go unchecked. His faithfulness is evident in how he keeps his covenant and



patiently provides for the needs of his people. Numbers ends with a new generation preparing for the conquest of Canaan.

Moses is the writer of the book of Numbers, writing during the final year of his life.

## Introduction to Psalms

The book of Psalms is filled with the songs and prayers offered to God by the nation of Israel.

Their expressions of praise, faith, sorrow, and frustration cover the range of human

emotions. Some of the Psalms dwell on the

treasure of wisdom and God's Word. Others reveal the troubled

heart of a mourner. Still others explode with praise to God and

invite others to join in song. This diversity is unified by one

element: they are centered upon the one and only living God.

This Creator God is King of all the earth and a refuge to all who trust in him. Many of the Psalms are attributed to King David.



## Introduction to Proverbs

Practical wisdom for living is the central concern of the book of Proverbs. Proverbs

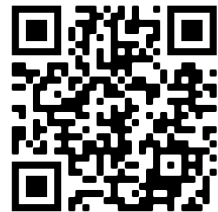
often contrasts the benefits of seeking wisdom and the pitfalls of living a fool's life. While the

wicked stumble in darkness the path of the

righteous is like the light of dawn. Proverbs is a collection of

Israelite wisdom literature, including an introductory section (ch 1-9) that gives readers a framework for understanding the rest of

the book.



# Week Six

## Read

✓	Date	Day	Text
	2/7	Sunday	Exodus 32-34   Proverbs 6
	2/8	Monday	Exodus 35-37   Proverbs 7
	2/9	Tuesday	Exodus 38-40   Proverbs 8
	2/10	Wednesday	Acts 1-3   Proverbs 9
	2/11	Thursday	Acts 4-6   Proverbs 10:1-16
	2/12	Friday	Acts 7-9   Proverbs 10:17-32
	2/13	Saturday	<i>Reflection</i>

## Reflect

*Bezaleel and Aholiab (Ex 35:30-35) were the first known ministers to be ordained by God in the arts. What might their vocation teach us about the purpose of art?*

## Remember

For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.

John 13:15



# Week Seven

## Read

✓	Date	Day	Text
	2/14	Sunday	Acts 10-12   Proverbs 11:1-15
	2/15	Monday	Acts 13-15   Proverbs 11:16-31
	2/16	Tuesday	Acts 16-18   Proverbs 12:1-14
	2/17	Wednesday	Acts 19-21   Proverbs 12:15-28
	2/18	Thursday	Acts 22-25   Proverbs 13:1-12
	2/19	Friday	Acts 26-28   Proverbs 13:13-25
	2/20	Saturday	<i>Reflection</i>

## Reflect

*Acts records Paul utilizing his personal background extensively throughout his ministry. What were some examples and what might we learn from them?*

## Remember

My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience.

James 5:10





# Week Eight

## Read

✓	Date	Day	Text
	2/21	Sunday	Leviticus 1-4   Proverbs 14:1-18
	2/22	Monday	Leviticus 5-8   Proverbs 14:19-35
	2/23	Tuesday	Leviticus 9-11   Proverbs 15:1-17
	2/24	Wednesday	Leviticus 12-14   Proverbs 15:18-33
	2/25	Thursday	Leviticus 15-18   Proverbs 16:1-16
	2/26	Friday	Leviticus 19-21   Proverbs 16:17-33
	2/27	Saturday	<i>Reflection</i>

## Reflect

*The fact that Christ fulfilled all the Old Testament law tempts some to ignore books like Leviticus. However, these Scriptures give us unique insights into the nature and work of Christ. Note an example or two from this week's reading.*

## Remember

For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

1 Peter 2:21



# Week Nine

## Read

✓	Date	Day	Text
	2/28	Sunday	Leviticus 22-24   Proverbs 17:1-14
	3/1	Monday	Leviticus 25-27   Proverbs 17:15-28
	3/2	Tuesday	Hebrews 1-3   Psalm 24
	3/3	Wednesday	Hebrews 4-6   Psalm 25
	3/4	Thursday	Hebrews 7-10   Psalm 26
	3/5	Friday	Hebrews 11-13   Psalm 27
	3/6	Saturday	Numbers 1-3   Psalm 28

## Reflect

*Hebrews argues for the superiority of the New Covenant revealed in Jesus Christ compared to the Old Covenant revealed in the law. Note an example or two from this week's reading.*

## Remember

But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.

1 Timothy 6:9



# Appendix A - The Inductive Study Method

## **Observation – What do I see?**

Start by reading the passage once through to get the big picture. Then read it again slower: noticing punctuation, identifying grammar, and observing how thoughts connect. Let the scene develop in your mind.

Now, “zoom out” in stages to get the **context**

- Immediate context – What is going on?
- Surrounding context – What happened before and after?
- Larger context – What is this book all about?

Next, consider how the **literary style** might be contributing

- Historical narrative – Factual retellings of events
- Law – God’s commands to His covenant people
- Poetry – Scripture written in verse
- Wisdom – Principles from generations of godly people
- Prophecy – Revelation from God about the future
- Argument – Ideas built upon each other to make a whole

Finally, “**interview**” the passage with these questions:

- Who? – What is significant to know about each person?
- What? – What is happening? What is being said or done?
- Where? – Lookup every location you encounter!
- When? – When did this occur? In other Scripture?
- Why? – Look for reasons and explanations. Connect them!
- How? – Are methods described or instructions given?

## Interpretation – What does it mean?

When interpreting Scripture, always keep in mind that “meaning” is not our subjective thoughts read into the text, but God’s objective truth read out of the text. Using the analogy of a puzzle, try applying the “four C’s” of accurate interpretation:

- **Content** – Do I have all the pieces? Observation is critical
- **Context** – Where does this piece belong in the big picture?
  - Literary context* – what type of literature is this?
  - Historical context* – what events surround this text?
  - Cultural context* – what were the “norms” then?
  - Geographic context* – does location matter?
  - Theological context* – what did they know of God?
- **Comparison** – Where does this piece fit with the others?
  - The greatest interpreter of Scripture is Scripture
- **Consultation** – Does this piece really fit here?
  - Commentaries are great consultation resources

And never forget the golden rule of interpretation:

*“When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense...or it will be nonsense.”*

## Application – How does it affect me?

To find out how the principles you’ve discovered might apply to you, it helps to restate them as a question to yourself like this:

*“How does that fact that [...principle from the Bible...] affect me?”*

Then ask yourself what action you should take based on what you now know. Seek God’s will in prayer for this. Permit the Holy Spirit to answer these questions for you and open your eyes to God’s perspective.











## Weekly Gatherings

Sunday Worship Service	Sundays @ 10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Service	Sundays @ 5:00 PM
West Covina Fellowship Group*	Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM
Covina Fellowship Group*	Wednesdays @ 7:00 PM

*\*Meeting locations and times subject to change. Please see a pastor for information and to enroll.*

## Contact

**Pastor Jack** 626.484.4346 jack.lamb@ouranchorholds.com

**Pastor Allen** 626.678.0106 allen.cox@ouranchorholds.com

**Office** 626.869.9034 office@ouranchorholds.com

1288 N Bonnie Cove Ave, Covina, CA 91724