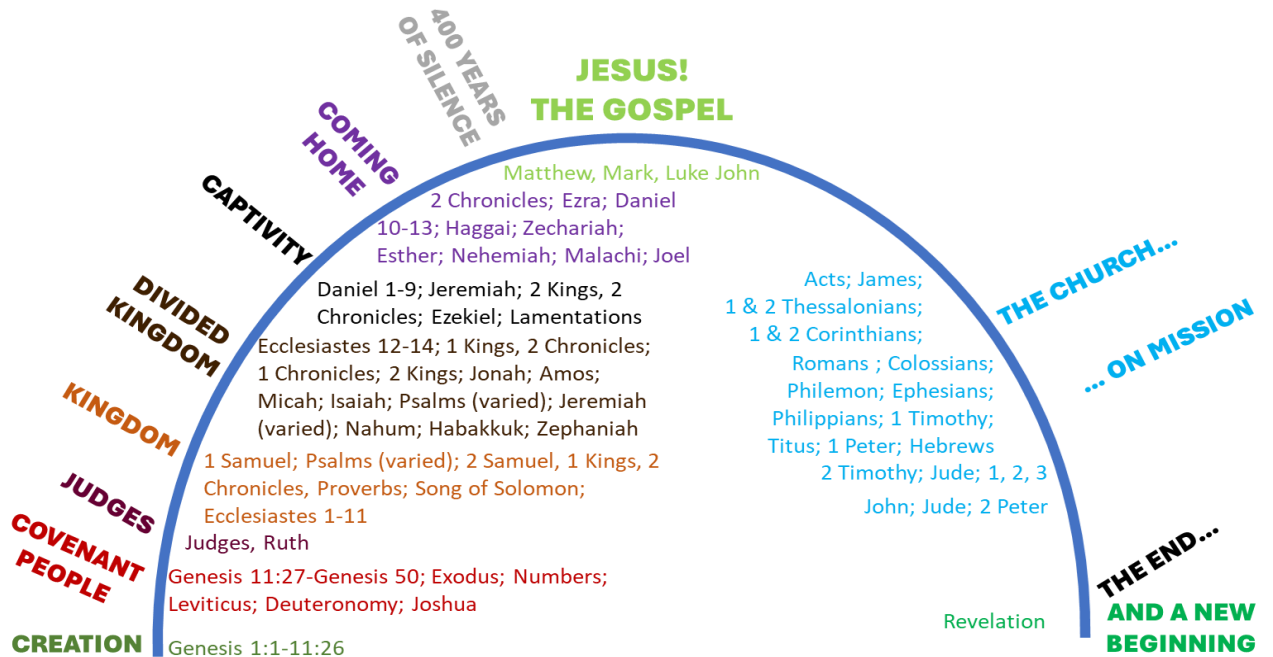




God's story—laid out in the Bible—is incredible! It has action, drama, conflicts, wars, intrigue, mystery, crazy characters, and an outcome beyond the imagination. Yes, there are those boring bits—genealogies, rules, and regulations and the like—but even those are in there to show us the heart, character and ways of the God we serve.

Novelists will tell you that every good story follows an arc—beginning with an event that grabs your attention, drawing you in through interesting characters, including the protagonist (bad guy), and leading you through a narrative that entices you toward the climax. But a good story doesn't end after that crowning moment. It goes on to settle conflicts, finish important details, and resolve uncertainties until it reaches what is called the *dénouement*—that final moment of drama that restores everything back to the way it was in the beginning. God's story has all of that! Can you pick these out below? Who are the major and who are the minor characters? What is the climax and what are the events leading up to it? How does it end? Or does it? Until we know these things, we may not really understand God's full story and the exciting ways he has planned for our own stories to intersect with his. Take a look on the next page:



THE STORY OF GOD...AND HIS PEOPLE

As you can see, there are eleven different eras in God's story (if you count the 400 years of silence. While this guide does not have you read the entire Bible, it offers a survey that includes enough from each era to get a broad grasp of the story. For the survey, you will be assigned five readings each week that take about 10-15 minutes each. We recommend you do one per day, with a couple of days to catch up, if needed. There are also catch-up weeks every so often, so don't get discouraged if you fall behind!

The most important part of this journey is that you connect with the Author of the story, who loves you so much that he can't wait to travel with you. As you prayerfully seek God's face on the pages of this incredible book, may you experience him in fresh and transforming ways.

To that end, there is a simple guide on the following page.

BIBLE READING GUIDE

Note: You may want to keep a journal of this experience—you will look back and be amazed at how God’s story intersects with your own life.

READ: Read the assigned verses slowly, even out loud if it helps. You can use your own hard copy Bible or Bible app or click on the Scriptures in this document for each day. Since this plan tells the story in the order it happened, your readings won’t always follow the same order as a normal Bible.

REFLECT: Try to read reflectively, which means to look for how this part of the story might speak to you personally. Look for what it tells you about God, about the world, about people, and about your own life. Step into the narratives and try to imagine what it might have been like for the various characters. When you finish reading, prayerfully identify at least one takeaway that is meaningful for you.

RESPOND: One question we want to always ask as we read Scripture is, “Lord, what do you want me to do?” based on this reading. Obedience is the outcome God wants for each of us and is the primary reason he has given us his Word.

PART ONE: JANUARY 1-MARCH 9



Although the readings for the *Creation Era* are shorter than most, the span of time it covers is about 2500 years. We learn of a God whose goodness spills out into the wonder of a world filled with beauty and joy, with the defining moment being the creation of human beings in his own likeness. From the start God wants to put his glory on display through people, filling the earth he made with it. We are introduced to the protagonist—Satan—whose sole purpose is to rob God of glory by disrupting his plans for his beloved people. This era

covers the first sin and its consequences, the first murder (between brothers) and the flood which God inflicts on the world he laments forming in the first place. Most scholars believe the book of Job was written sometime during this era.

WEEK ONE: January 1

1. [Genesis 1-3](#)
2. [Genesis 4:1-16, 25-26; 5:1; 6:9-22](#)
3. [Genesis 7:7-24; Genesis 8](#)
4. [Genesis 9:8-17; Genesis 11:1-9](#)
5. [Job 1](#)

WEEK TWO: January 8

1. [Job 2; Job 3:1-6, 23-26](#)
2. [Job 4:1-9; Job 7:17-21; Job 8:1-10](#)
3. [Job 10:1-8, 18-22; Job 11:1-6](#)
4. [Job 11:13-18; Job 12:1-10; Job 13:3-5, 16-21](#)
5. [Job 15:1-13; Job 16:1-6; Job 17:1-11](#)

WEEK THREE: January 15

1. [Job 27:1-6; Job 28:1-3, 12-15, 23-28; Job 29:1-6; Job 30:16-20](#)
2. [Job 31:29-35; Job 34:1-15; Job 36:22-26](#)
3. [Job 37:1-5, 20-24; Job 38:1-13, 31-36](#)
4. [Job 39:19-30; Job 40:1-14; Job 41: 1-11](#)
5. [Job 42](#)



God's story now moves into a new era as he begins the process of calling a people to be his own who will ultimately prepare the way for the Messiah. We will journey with Abraham, the father of our faith, to whom God makes a promise that through him every nation in the world will be blessed. Generations unfold with his son Isaac, then Jacob who bears twelve sons who became the twelve tribes of Israel. But first, one of them—Joseph—is sold to the Egyptians by his brothers. Joseph's story ends with a

beautiful family reunion in Egypt, but after his death, God's people end up enslaved in that land. Some 400 grueling years later, God raises up a man named Moses to lead them out of Egypt into the land he'd long ago promised to Abraham. Their circuitous journey will be a 40-year wild ride, but through the process, God deepens his covenant by giving them the Law and the sacrificial system of worship centered around the Ark of the Covenant, where his presence dwells. This era lasts around 900 years, when they finally begin to conquer the land God promised to Abraham.

Note: The books of 1 and 2 Chronicles were written several centuries after the events took place. The chronicler was most likely Ezra and later Nehemiah. We will not include much of it in these readings because they repeat what has already been said. However, The Bible Project has this to say about them: *The book's message has a pastoral purpose: to bring comfort and hope to generations of God's people who were tempted towards despair or apathy. During a time when many wondered if God was ever going to fulfill his promises, the Chronicler retold the story of their collective past in order to rekindle hope for the future.*

WEEK FOUR: January 29

1. [Genesis 11:31; Genesis 12; Genesis 13](#)
2. [Genesis 15-16](#)
3. [Genesis 17-18](#)
4. [Genesis 21:1-21; Genesis 22:1-18; Genesis 24; Genesis 25:19-34](#)
5. [Genesis 26:1-5; Genesis 27:1-40; Genesis 28:1-22; Genesis 35:1-15, 28-29](#)

WEEK FIVE: February 4

1. [Genesis 37:1-36; Genesis 39:1-23; Genesis 41:1-43, 56](#)
2. [Genesis 42:1-38; Genesis 43:1-34; Genesis 44:1-30](#)
3. [Genesis 45:1-28; Genesis 46:1-5, 28-31; Genesis 47:1, 11-12, 27-31; Genesis 50:1-3, 15-26](#)
4. [Exodus 1:6-14, 22; Exodus 2](#)
5. [Exodus 3:1-14, Exodus 4:1-20, 27-31](#)

WEEK SIX: February 11

1. [Exodus 5:1-9, 19-23; Exodus 6:1-9; Exodus 7:1-3, 10-13, 20-22](#)
2. [Exodus 8-11](#)
3. [Exodus 12:1-14, 21-31, 35-36, 40-42, 50; Exodus 13:1-9, 17-22; Exodus 14:1-6, 10-18, 21-30; Exodus 15:1-4, 11-13, 17-18, 22-27](#)

4. [Exodus 16:1-8, 13-18, 23-31; Exodus 17:1-7; Exodus 19:1-9, 14-22; Exodus 20:1-24; Exodus 21:1-5; Exodus 22:16-27; Exodus 23:20-25; Exodus 24](#)
5. [Exodus 25:1-9, 22; Exodus 26:30-36; Exodus 27:1-9, 20-21; Exodus 28:1-3; 29-30; Exodus 29:1-9, 35-37, 45-46](#)

WEEK SEVEN: February 18

1. [Exodus 30:1-10, 17-31; Exodus 31:12-18; Exodus 32;](#)
2. [Exodus 33; Exodus 34:1-4, 28-35; Exodus 35:1-10, 20-22, 29; Exodus 36:2-7;](#)
3. [Exodus 37:1-9; Exodus 39:32-43; Exodus 40:1-7, 34-38; Numbers 9:16-23](#)
4. [Numbers 7:1-3, 89; Numbers 8:20-22; Numbers 9:1-5; Leviticus 1:1-5; Leviticus 3:1-3; Leviticus 4:1-3, 13-14, 22-24, 27-28, 34-35; Leviticus 5:17-19; Leviticus 6:19-22; Leviticus 7:28-31, 37; Leviticus 8:14-15, 18-19, 30-36](#)
5. [Leviticus 9:1-7, 22-24; Leviticus 10:1-3; Leviticus 16:15-17, 20-22, 29-31; Leviticus 18:1-26; Leviticus 19:1-4, 9-18, 30-37](#)

WEEK EIGHT: February 25

1. [Leviticus 20:1-13, 22-24; Leviticus 23:26-43; Leviticus 25:1-3, 18-22; Leviticus 26:1-6, 14-17, 40-44](#)
2. [Numbers 1:1-4, 16-19, 47-54; Numbers 2:1-2, 32-34; Numbers 6:1-5; Numbers 10:1-12, 33-36; Numbers 11:1-6, 11-25, 31-35](#)
3. [Numbers 12:1-16; Numbers 13:1-3, 17-28; Numbers 14:1-19, 26-35](#)
4. [Psalms 90; Numbers 22](#)
5. [Numbers 23:1-12; Numbers 24:10-12; Numbers 25:1-9; Numbers 27:12-23](#)



WEEK NINE: MARCH 6--CATCH UP WEEK