



In the reading plan, two weeks was dedicated to Matthew's gospel record. Much, much more time could be spent in this great book. If you spend a majority of your time this week revisiting this gospel account, your time will not be misspent! Matthew's gospel highlights Jesus as the Messiah Israel was

expecting, and shows Jesus to be the fulfillment of God's promise to set up an everlasting Kingdom. Jesus is the one who sits on David's throne and reigns over true Israel. Matthew showcases fulfilled-prophecies in the life of Jesus, and he also focuses a great deal of attention on the teaching of Jesus, such as the Sermon on the Mount and several parable passages. Yes, when you read the book of Matthew, you can meet the prophesied Messiah; you can sit at the feet of the Master Teacher; you can witness the crucified Lamb; you can marvel at the risen Lord, and you can worship the ascended King!

Job is a challenging, but marvelous book! If you will read and study it diligently, you will find great knowledge and greater comfort. This book displays Satan's great hatred for mankind, and the lengths to which he is willing to go to cause men to fail. More importantly though, the book of Job teaches important lessons about the sovereignty of God. Job was a righteous man, and yet God allowed him to suffer. If you ask "why?" then you'd be asking the same question as Job. Job never was given an answer, but he was reminded of God's greatness and goodness. Ultimately, God delivered Job and blessed him more in the end than He had in the beginning! Thus, Job becomes a great lesson of endurance, patience, and hope in light of God's promised blessings!



The first epistle in the New Testament is Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome. Paul hoped to visit the brethren there, but more importantly he wrote to provide much needed clarity concerning their new life in Christ. Old backgrounds, both Jewish and Gentile, threatened to reappear in various forms among the Christians there. Paul's letter provides a magnificent treatise on

God's saving plan, the wonder of God's grace, the importance of obedient faith, and the incredible hope provided by God's promises to the faithful. Packed with rich doctrine and great practical advice, Romans is a book worthy of much reading and study!

"That You May Grow Thereby..."

A weekly Bible reading plan



First Quarter Review

Congratulations! If you've been following along in the reading plan, you've spent a quarter of the year reading God's Word! You've read four books of the Bible from four different genres of Biblical writing. First there was Genesis—the first book of the Bible and the beginning of the "Torah" or "Pentateuch" (first five books of the Old Testament that make up the "Law" portion of the Old Testament). Next, you read the book of Matthew—the first of the Gospel accounts. After that, you spent a few weeks in the book of Job, which is the first of the "wisdom" or "poetry" books in the Old Testament. Finally, you read the book of Romans, which is the first "epistle" in the New Testament. You've read some important books that cover a wide range of important lessons and doctrines. Instead of moving forward with the next book, this week is designed to be a review week. This will give you a chance to catch up on any reading you missed or fell behind on, and it will give you a chance to re-read and review any sections you might like to revisit.

The first book of the Bible is of course the book of Genesis. It is a book of "firsts," such as the first day; the first man and woman; the first marriage; the first sin; the first murder; and many other things. Genesis is the story of where time, the world, and mankind began. More importantly, it reveal the beginning of God's plan of redemption. Because of sin, mankind was separated from God. From the very beginning, however, God had a plan in mind to offer man a means of redemption. That plan would work its way out through the lineage of a man named Abraham. Thus, the Genesis story shifts from the story of the world to the story of a man and the nation that would come from him. Remember the brief outline:



Genesis 1-11: Four Great Events

- Creation
- The Fall
- The Flood
- The Tower of Babel

Genesis 12-50: Four Great Men

- Abraham
- Isaac
- Jacob
- Joseph



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