



Five weeks of the reading plan were dedicated to the book of Isaiah, which is the first of the books of prophecy. Isaiah lived and served during the reigns of four different kings (Isa. 1:1). During his lengthy career as a prophet of God, Isaiah addressed many different issues confronting God's people, and uttered many prophecies. He warned against both Israel and Judah's evil deeds;

he pronounced woes upon many of the world's nations; and he foretold of the return of Judah from Babylonian captivity. Most importantly, Isaiah contains several prophecies concerning the church (the true restoration of Israel) and the Messiah. Four Messianic prophecies are found in the first section which highlight the Messiah's divinity. Four "servant songs" in the second portion portray the nature and work of the Messiah as God's ideal servant, with one final prophecy on the good news the Messiah brings.

The sole New Testament book you read in this quarter was the Paul's letter known as First Corinthians. The church at Corinth had been established by Paul, but within a few years of Paul's departure the church there had developed some major problems. Division plagued the church. The Corinthians were morally confused, tolerating immoral behavior while also questioning marriage relationships. Observance of the Lord's supper had been tarnished, spiritual gifts were misused, and false ideas concerning the resurrection were popping up. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Paul wrote to the Corinthian church to correct these grave issues, and help them return to the simplicity and power of Jesus Christ and Him crucified. While written nearly 2,000 years ago, First Corinthians is loaded with applicable teaching for Christians and the Church today!



The last couple of weeks in the reading plan covered the book of Leviticus. One of the most challenging books in the Bible, Leviticus is often overlooked and assumed to be redundant, boring, and outdated. While Christians no longer live under the Mosaic Law, Leviticus has a great deal to teach. It showcases God's holiness and how awesome it is to approach Him in worship. It also reminds us that what God has expected of His children in every dispensation—to become holy like He is holy. Further, the goal of holiness and the sacrificial requirements point forward to Jesus, His life, and His life-giving sacrifice.

## “That You May Grow Thereby...”

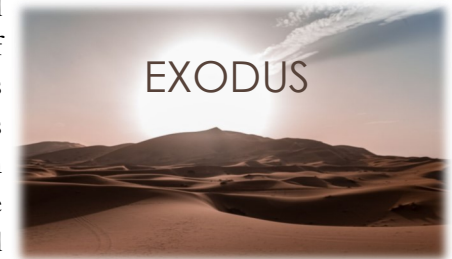
*A weekly Bible reading plan*



### Second Quarter Review

Way to go! At this point in the reading plan, you've spent half a year reading the Bible! You've now read eight books of the Bible from various sections of both the Old and New Testaments. In the first quarter of the year, you read through Genesis, Matthew, Job, and Romans. Over the past 12 weeks you added the books of Exodus, which continues the Old Testament narrative, picking up in Egypt where Genesis left off. You also read Isaiah, which is the first of the books of prophecy. From the New Testament, you read the next epistle which is First Corinthians. Over the last couple of weeks you returned to the Pentateuch to read the book of Leviticus. As in week 13 of this reading plan, 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. Below and on the back are brief recaps of the books you've read these past three months.

Genesis ended with Joseph's death and Jacob's descendants (the fledgling nation of Israel) living in the land of Egypt. Exodus picks up the story, but quickly moves forward hundreds of years to a time when the Israelites were no longer welcome guests in Egypt, and were instead forced into slave labor. Despite hardship, their population had exploded. Exodus tells how God used Moses to deliver the Israelites from Egyptian bondage, and of the nation's trek towards the promised land of Canaan. The nation travelled to Mt. Sinai, where they began to receive the Law. Exodus ends with the completion of the Tabernacle. Delivered from Egypt, Israel has seen God's power, heard God's voice, and now had a tabernacle where they can worship Mighty God. This sets the stage for the full deliverance of the Law that will take place in Leviticus.





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