

Read Through the Old Testament

Daily Bible Reading Guide with Devotional Thoughts-and Prayer Starters © Pastor Frank Eckert

GET INTO IT ANYWAY YOU CAN!

OCTOBER, YEAR A

(Recommended: READ summary BEFORE reading the Bible verses!)

☐ **October 1**

1 Kings 19: 1-21

Reflect: Elijah climbs Mt Horeb, journeys forty days and nights, is fed by God through an angel, learns God's will and hides in the cleft of a rock. Elijah encounters the Lord in the still, small voice. Elijah hands over power to Elisha, his successor.

Prayer: Father, when we get opposed for doing your will and feel depressed, remind us that Your presence is with us to lift us up and give us new hope. Amen.

☐ **October 2**

1 Kings 20: 1-43

Reflect: True power is in the Lord, no king is absolute. An unnamed prophet brings God's promise of victory in battle against the Arameans. King Ahab must sacrifice the King of Aram in accordance with the rules of holy war that all spoils of war must be annihilated.

Prayer: God, move us to obey even when we don't understand Your commands. Amen.

☐ **October 3**

1 Kings 21: 1-29

Reflect: Angered by Naboth's refusal to part with his ancestral vineyard, King Ahab let his wife Jezebel secure it by devious means. She had Naboth put to death on trumped-up charges and then handed the property over to Ahab.

Prayer: Lord God, help us to see how terrible it is to despise Your warnings. Amen.

☐ **October 4**

1 Kings 22: 1-53

Reflect: Ahab sent for Micaiah who prophesied that all Israel would be scattered. Imprisoned for his courageous words, he foretold that the king would not return alive from the battle. Wounded by an arrow in the battle, Ahab died in that same evening.

Prayer: O Jesus, we pray that You would lead many to salvation before it is too late. Amen.

☐ **October 5**

2 Kings 1: 1-18

Reflect: Second Kings continues the story of the Hebrew monarchs from the 9th to the 6th century BC. The fall of both kingdoms is due to God's judgement. Ahaziah, king of Israel, preferred Baal to the true God and Elijah prophesies doom if this is continued.

Prayer: Loving Father, though You prefer to save rather than condemn, help our nation to know that persistent rejection of You can lead to damnation. Amen.

☐ **October 6**

2 Kings 2: 1-25

Reflect: Elijah is taken up into heaven in a fiery chariot. Elisha becomes his true successor. Walking in Elijah's footsteps, he divides the waters of the Jordan. In purifying bitter spring water, Elisha demonstrates he has been endowed with God's power.

Prayer: Lord Christ, when we lose a much-loved pastor, we thank you that in Your grace You provide a replacement that Your work may go on. Amen.

☐ **October 7**

2 Kings 3:1-27

Reflect: When the kings of Israel, Judah and Edom go to war against Moab, they consult Elisha concerning water supplies for their armies. He assures them that God will supply them with water. He will grant them victory.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, over against some revolting and shocking deeds done by evil people, guide us by Your Word to think and do what is right and pleasing in Your sight. Amen.

☐ **October 8**

2 Kings 4: 1-44

Reflect: Elisha multiplies oil for the widow of a fellow-prophet. Then he brings back to life the son of the Shunammite woman. Also, by neutralising a poisoned stew and multiplying some loaves of bread, the Prophet shows the power and goodness of the Lord.

Prayer: O Father, we praise You for Your goodness, for You satisfy all our needs. Amen.

☐ **October 9**

2 Kings 5: 1-27

Reflect: Naaman travels to Israel for a cure for his leprosy. After his healing, he set up an altar to the Lord God. Elisha's servant Gehazi secretly tries to profit from Naaman's cure. Instead, he receives Naaman's disease as a just punishment for his greed.

Prayer: Thank You, Jesus, Great Physician, for healing us from the leprosy of sin. Amen.

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☐ October 10

2 Kings 6: 8-33; 7: 1-20

Reflect: A desperate famine follows the siege of the city. People begin eating their own children. The King of Israel blames Elisha. But the prophet insists that God's deliverance will soon come. The Arameans are tricked by imaginary sounds of chariots and horses.

Prayer: Father God, help us to entrust our lives to You and make us more than conquerors through Jesus our Saviour. Amen.

☐ October 11

2 Kings 8: 1-29

Reflect: When the king saw the Shunammite woman's son, whom Elisha restored to life, he granted her request for the restitution of her property. Under Jehoram, King of Judah, the people lapsed into idolatry. Ahaziah, son of Jehoram, succeeded his father as King of Judah.

Prayer: Lord God on high, help us to see that the punishments that strike unrepentant sinners are a warning to all to repent and turn in faith to You. Amen.

☐ October 12

2 Kings 9 and 10

Reflect: Jehu kills Jehoram, King of Israel, and replaces him as king. He sets out to rid Israel of Ahab's idolatrous influence, killing Ahab's wife Jezebel and 70 of his sons. He did not reckon with Athaliah, the queen mother in Judah, who could be as ruthless as Jehu.

Prayer: O Lord, help us never to think that some acts of obedience to You, can compensate for failing to walk the road of repentance and faith. Amen.

☐ October 13

2 Kings 11: 1-21

Reflect: After Jehu killed Ahaziah, Athaliah seized the throne of Judah and ruled as queen for five years. Joash, the infant son of Ahaziah, was hidden in the Temple until he was crowned king in a secret ceremony. Athaliah, a Baal worship promoter, was murdered.

Prayer: Lord of the Church, we praise You for those times that Your Church emerges all the stronger after a time of persecution and serves You with new zeal and new power. Amen.

☐ October 14

2 Kings 12: 1-21

Reflect: During Joash's early years, the temple of Baal was destroyed and the Lord's Temple in Jerusalem repaired. But after High Priest Jehoiada's death, Joash succumbs to idolatry. Joash even has the prophet Zechariah, stoned to death. He himself is finally killed.

Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, help us to endure and keep us faithful even until death. Amen.

☐ October 15

2 Kings 13: 1-25

Reflect: Jehoahaz the new king of Israel reinstated idolatry. He repents and a military leader frees Israel. In spite of this deliverance, the people persist in their idolatry. A dead person is brought back to life by contact with the corpse of a holy person, Elisha. First time ever!

Prayer: Merciful Father, we thank You that in spite of our waywardness, You have shown us much patience and faithfulness. Amen.

☐ October 16

2 Kings 14: 1-29

Reflect: Joash was succeeded by his son, Amaziah. Amaziah greatly pleased the Lord. He engages in an ill-advised campaign against Israel that resulted in plundering of the Temple by Israel's king. Jeroboam like his predecessors, perpetuates the sin of idolatry.

Prayer: Holy Father, we thank You for the long-suffering You likewise show to us, calling us to daily repentance, and showing us mercy. Amen.

☐ October 17

2 Kings 15: 1-38

Reflect: Azariah reigns longest among the kings of Judah. He strengthens the kingdom but is afflicted with leprosy for his idolatry. Then in Israel, Zechariah's reign is followed by five other kings. Then, Jotham, king of Judah, did not remove idolatry.

Prayer: Lord Christ, let Your warnings lead us to repentance while there is still time. Amen.

☐ October 18

2 Kings 16: 1-20

Reflect: Attacked by the King of Aram and King Pekah of Israel, King Ahaz of Judah uses Temple funds to hire the king of Assyria to help him fight off his aggressors. He is denounced for sacrificing his own son in pagan worship.

Prayer: Father God, help those who harden their hearts against You to be warned that You will finally harden their hearts if they persistently oppose and resist You. Amen.

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October 19

2 Kings 17: 1-41

Reflect: Hoshea, Israel's last king, was more evil than any other king of Israel before him. He refuses to pay tribute to Assyria and makes an alliance with Egypt. This provokes an Assyrian attack that results in the collapse of the nation and exile.

Prayer: Merciful God, enable us to worship only You as the true God, through Jesus. Amen.



October 20

2 Kings 18-20

Reflect: As you browse through these three chapters you see: Hezekiah revolts against Syria whose vassal he had been. Assyria's king, Sennacherib attacks Judah but Jerusalem escapes destruction. Isaac heals Hezekiah of a fatal illness. God adds some years to the king's life.

Prayer: Dear Father, even though You deliver us from troubles, help us still to heed Your warnings and to live daily under Your grace and forgiveness in Jesus our Saviour. Amen



October 21

2 Kings 21: 1-26

Reflect: The new king Manasseh was the worst of Judah's rulers. Manasseh's backward slide into idolatry caused by his desire to please his Assyrian overlords cannot be cancelled out by Josiah's forthcoming reforms. Amon continues in his father's sinful policies.

Prayer: O Holy Spirit, strengthen us that we may not deliberately discard better knowledge and do evil. Help us to use well our time of grace and to find joy in serving You. Amen.



October 22

2 Kings 22-23

Reflect: Josiah was Judah's best king for his depth of sincerity. A scroll of the Law of Moses is discovered during a repair of the Temple. Josiah immediately puts it into practice. He eliminates pagan worship, but is killed in battle. Jehoiahaz and Jehoiakim follow him.

Prayer: Thank You, O Lord. Keep us ever in Your grace. Amen.



October 23

2 Kings 24: 1-24; 25:1-7

Reflect: Judah's next king Jehoiachin is carried off into exile with many others. Zedekiah is the next king. Jerusalem is besieged for two years, resulting in acute starvation. Finally, the Temple is destroyed, officials executed, and the king carried off into Babylonian exile.

Prayer: Holy Father, give us grace to open our eyes to Your warnings and obey You. Amen.



October 24

2 Kings 25: 8-30

Reflect: Gedaliah, appointed by the Babylonians as governor is soon assassinated. King Jehoiachin, after 37 years in prison, is released. David's line has not been snuffed out. The Books of Kings teach us that the people often forsook obedience and loyalty to the Lord.

Prayer: Lord God, thank You for pardoning our disloyalty and make us obedient. Amen.



October 25

1 Chronicles 10: 1-14

Reflect: The Chronicler's history begins with Adam and concludes with the writer's own day, 5th century BC. (Chapters 1-9 are genealogical lists as you notice in passing.) The actual narrative starts here in Chapter 10: Israel's story really begins with David as king, and Chronicles gives a different perspective than Kings.

Prayer: O God, thank You for keeping Your promises to preserve the line of David. Amen



October 26

1 Chronicles 11: 1-25

Reflect: After David was anointed at Hebron to be king over all Israel, he captures Jerusalem. The Chronicler lists some of the mighty men who assisted David, giving him support in his kingdom. (Peruse these names if you wish, through Chapters 11 and 12).

Prayer: O Jesus, thank You that You have our names in Your Book of Life, so that when our battle of this earthly life is over we may inherit eternal life by Your grace. Amen.



October 27

1 Chronicles 13: 1-14

Reflect: The importance of true worship is stressed as the Chronicler highlights David's concern for the Ark of the Covenant. Wearing the crown of all Israel in the city of Jerusalem and commanding a national army, David was in a good position to promote spiritual life.

Prayer: Loving Lord, help us to use Your Word as a daily reminder of Your presence. Amen.

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☐ October 28

1 Chronicles 15: 1-29

Reflect: After defeating the Philistines as summed up in Chapter 14 (peruse if you wish), he successfully removed the Ark to Jerusalem. David's wife, Michel (Saul's daughter) did not approve of David's ecstatic behaviour but she was punished by God for her lack of joy.

Prayer: Lord God, stir us as Your children to rejoice over Your amazing victories. Amen.

☐ October 29

1 Chronicles 16: 1- 43

Reflect: When the Ark was placed into a tent that David had temporarily made for it, he offered burnt offerings before the Lord. David is the only royal figure the Chronicler portrays positively when he acts in a priestly manner. He led the thanksgiving with a psalm.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, move us to put our hearts into worshiping You, to rejoice in You. Amen.

☐ October 30

1 Chronicles 17: 1-27

Reflect: David did not want to leave the Ark of the Covenant under a makeshift shelter while he occupied regal quarters made of cedar. God wanted above all things, to build David's dynastic house. For out of it would emerge the King of kings, Ruler of an eternal kingdom.

Prayer: Father God, we praise You for Your promise and its fulfilment that You would send the Messiah, the Christ who would rule over all things in heaven and on earth. Amen.

☐ October 31

1 Chronicles 18: 1-17

Reflect: David proved himself to be not only a great military leader but also a noble founder of religious institutions. Even though not permitted to engage directly in the construction of the Temple, David did much to make the deferred project a success under his son Solomon.

Prayer: Lord of the Church, empower us to work hard to extend Your kingdom. Amen.