

# Read Through the Old Testament

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

## GET INTO IT ANYWAY YOU CAN!

## JANUARY, YEAR A

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

- ☐ **January 1      Genesis 1      (Psalm 1)**  
Reflect: On this first day of a new year, we stand in awe of all that God created including the gift of time. We want to use our time wisely in this New Year, to serve and glorify Him!  
*Prayer: O God, we praise You for your wondrous creation and providence. Amen.*
- ☐ **January 2      Genesis 2      (Psalm 2:11,12)**  
Reflect: We marvel at the miracle of male and female that God created and how He brought them together in the first marriage. We think of the beauty of Eden's garden.  
*Prayer: Thank you, Lord God, for the gift of marriage and the family. Amen.*
- ☐ **January 3      Genesis 3      (Psalm 3)**  
Reflect: What calamity our first parents brought into the world by their disobedience! What catastrophe sin's disease brings! We rejoice at the bruising of the serpent's head!  
*Prayer: Heavenly Father, give us the power daily to resist the old evil one! Amen.*
- ☐ **January 4      Genesis 4      (Psalm 4)**  
Reflect: We are shocked that sin soon reared its ugly head: Adam and Eve's first born murdered their second born! We are appalled at the horrendous murders since then!  
*Prayer: Lord God, help us to overcome jealousy by the power of your love. Amen.*
- ☐ **January 5      Genesis 5      (Psalm 5:1-3,11,12)**  
Reflect: We wonder at the development of the human race and the number of years people lived, from Adam to Noah! We want to learn more from the example of Enoch.  
*Prayer: Dear Father, enable us to walk in fellowship with you each day! Amen.*
- ☐ **January 6      Genesis 6      (Psalm 6:1-4)**  
Reflect: The wickedness of the human race became horrendous! God decided to punish them by sending a great flood. The Ark would save only Noah and his family.  
*Prayer: O God, turn our world to you and restrain the flood of evil and corruption. Amen.*
- ☐ **January 7      Genesis 7      (Psalm 17:7)**  
Reflect: The Great Flood brought massive destruction! Because of God's mercy, Noah and his family of seven and the creatures in the Ark survived!  
*Prayer: O Lord; move more people to repent, less they suffer eternal destruction. Amen.*
- ☐ **January 8      Genesis 8      (Psalm 8:1-9)**  
Reflect: After he came out of the Ark, Noah built an altar and gave thanks to the Lord. In mercy, God promised He would not again destroy almost every living creature by flood.  
*Prayer: O Lord, thank You for Your promise to maintain the earth's seasons. Amen.*
- ☐ **January 9      Genesis 9:1-19,28      (Psalm 9:1,2,9-11)**  
Reflect: God repeated His command for people to multiply and replenish the earth. To take a life would be punishable by death. The rainbow is His promise to protect us.  
*Prayer: O Lord, we pray for a greater respect for human life in our world today. Amen.*
- ☐ **January 10      Genesis 11:1-11,26-32      (Psalm 10:1,17,18)**  
Reflect: What terrible troubles the sin of pride caused at the Babel tower and ever since. We repent of the fact that sins of pride in our lives have damaged our relationships with others.  
*Prayer: Father, deliver from sinful pride. Give us more of Christ's humility. Amen.*
- ☐ **January 11      Genesis 12:1-20      (Psalm 11:4,7)**  
Reflect: Abram obeyed the call of God to leave his native land and travel to a new country. The Lord promised to bless him. Abram built an altar and praised God.  
*Prayer: Lord God, strengthen our faith that we may obey and go where you lead. Amen.*
- ☐ **January 12      Genesis 13:1-18      (Psalm 12:6,7)**  
Reflect: We want to learn from the noble example of Abram when he so unselfishly allowed Lot to choose the better part of the land. Plan an act of unselfishness.  
*Prayer: Father, help us, Abram's spiritual descendants, in our journey of faith. Amen.*

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- ☐ **January 13**      **Genesis 14:17-24**      **(Psalm 13:1-3,5,6)**  
Reflect: Melchizedek, the priest-king of Salem, showed his gratitude to Abram by giving him food. He praised God and blessed Abram. Abram rewarded him generously.  
*Prayer: O Christ, we look to You as our High Priest, to refresh and restore us. Amen.*
- ☐ **January 14**      **Genesis 15:1-21**      **(Psalm 14:1-3)**  
Reflect: God promises Abram great blessings, especially many descendants. Abram believed God. God counted his faith for righteousness.  
*Prayer: O God, when things seem hopeless, give us a great faith in You Amen.*
- ☐ **January 15**      **Genesis 16:1-16**      **(Psalm 15:1,2)**  
Reflect: Hagar's son was called Ishmael, meaning, 'God hears'. The Lord hears her cry of distress and helps her. Remember some times when God heard your cry?  
*Prayer: Lord, we thank You for Your mercy and Your help in all our needs. Amen.*
- ☐ **January 16**      **Genesis 17:1-27**      **(Psalm 16:1,2,5-11)**  
Reflect: God repeated His Promises of a son to 99-year old Abraham and made a covenant with him and his descendants, so that he would bless them greatly.  
*Prayer: Thank you, Father, that you made a covenant with us to be our God Amen.*
- ☐ **January 17**      **Genesis 18:1-33**      **(Psalm 17: 5-8, 15)**  
Reflect: The Lord made yet another promise to Abraham that his aged wife Sarah would have a son. 'Is there anything too hard for the Lord?'  
*Prayer: O Lord, thank You for nourishing our faith on Your promises. Amen.*
- ☐ **January 18**      **Genesis 19: 1-29**      **(Psalm 18:1-26)**  
Reflect: For their wickedness, God destroys Sodom and Gomorrah with fire and brimstone. But in answer to Abraham's prayers, He saves Lot and his family. Let's intercede often for others!  
*Prayer: Lord Go, move us to pray often for others and their special needs. Amen.*
- ☐ **January 19**      **Genesis 21: 1-21**      **(Psalm 19:1-14)**  
Reflect: We are amazed at the miracle birth of Isaac whose very name means "laughter". He brought much joy to his parents justifying their faith in God's promises!  
*Prayer: Father, we thank You that from this child of joy came the miracle child, Jesus! Amen.*
- ☐ **January 20**      **Genesis 22:1-19 & 23:1, 2,19,20**      **(Psalm 20:1-9)**  
Reflect: What a miracle of faith: Abraham received back his son Isaac after showing his willingness to sacrifice his only heir. God's provision of Abram points to His own Son's sacrifice.  
*Prayer: Father God, may we trust You fully when You put us to some severe tests. Amen.*
- ☐ **January 21**      **Genesis 24:1-67**      **(Psalm 22:1-10)**  
Reflect: God again showed His steadfast love. He led Abraham's servant to find Rebekah to be his son Isaac's wife. He put a great love in the hearts of Rebekah and Isaac for each other.  
*Prayer: O Lord, we praise You for guiding Your people to find good marriage partners. Amen.*
- ☐ **January 22**      **Genesis 25:7-11,19-34**      **(Psalm 23:1-6)**  
Reflect: Do we want to be like Esau who is our primarily for earthly enjoyment, or do we want to be like Jacob who seeks first the interests of God's kingdom?  
*Prayer: Father, help us not to trade off the things eternal for what is temporal. Amen.*
- ☐ **January 23**      **Genesis 26: 1-5, 12-35**      **(Psalm 24: 1-10)**  
Reflect: Like the Lord did to Abraham, so He promises to bless Isaac and his descendants. To know God's blessings is an important foundation for good relationships with people.  
*Prayer: O God, if disharmony strikes our lives, please, we pray, give us peace. Amen.*
- ☐ **January 24**      **Genesis 27:1-45**      **(Psalm 25:1-12)**  
Reflect: We are astounded that God chooses the guilty brother Jacob to be the blessing-bearer of all families of the earth. It's God's mysterious grace! God finds unusual ways to bless us!  
*Prayer: Lord God, Your ways are past finding out! We praise You for all Your blessings. Amen.*
- ☐ **January 25**      **Genesis 27:46-28:22**      **(Psalm 26:8, 12)**  
Reflect: We notice how Isaac connects the receiving of God's blessings to Jacob with his getting of a good and right marriage partner.  
*Prayer: Father, go with us to give us your blessings wherever we are, through Jesus. Amen.*

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☐ **January 26**      **Genesis 29:1-30**      **(Psalm 27:1,7-9,13-14)**

Reflection: Jacob goes to a far country and finds Rachel. He falls in love with her and finally gets her for his wife but not without some humiliating experiences.

*Prayer: Father, help us to endure the thorns and so more appreciate the roses. Amen.*

☐ **January 27**      **Genesis 29:31-30:1-43**      **(Psalm 28:1,2,6-9)**

Reflect: God blessed Jacob with twelve children followed by many children of Israel. Also, with flocks and wealth, despite the rivalry and deceit that he was experiencing with Laban, his uncle.

*Prayer: Father, no matter what our struggle, in your grace we are richly blessed. Amen.*

☐ **January 28**      **Genesis 31: 1-55**      **(Psalm 29:1-11)**

Reflect: God blesses Jacob, so that he thrives even against huge odds. If God promises, He keeps His word.

*Prayer: O God, if you are for us, who can really overcome us? Amen*

☐ **January 29**      **Genesis 32:1-32**      **(Psalm 30:1-12)**

Reflect: Jacob is met by an army of angels. With great humility he thanks God for His steadfast faithfulness toward him. He wrestles all night in prayer with God who renames him Israel.

*Prayer: Lord; enable us often to wrestle with you in prayer, seeking Your blessings. Amen.*

☐ **January 30**      **Genesis 33: 1-20**      **(Psalm 33:1-20)**

Reflect: Forgiveness overcame anger and resentment. After years of enforced separation, the twin brothers Esau and Jacob meet and embrace each other in a spirit of glad reconciliation.

*Prayer: O Father, give us a spirit of reconciliation whenever it is needed. Amen.*

☐ **January 31**      **Genesis 37:1-36**      **(Psalm 32:1-11)**

Reflect: We are shocked that the rivalry and hatred of Joseph's brothers culminates in their selling him to traders who take him to Egypt.

*Prayer: Lord God, if there is strife in our family may we overcome it with Your love. Amen.*