

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!)

- ☐ **February 1** **Genesis 39: 1-23** **(Psalm 33: 1-9)**
Reflect: The Lord is with Joseph. God's presence helps him to resist temptation and prospers him even when he is innocently put in gaol.
Prayer: Lord God; because of Your presence, You will bring us through our troubles. Amen.
- ☐ **February 2** **Genesis 40: 1-23** **(Psalm 34: 1-8)**
Reflect: God drew aside the veil of the future for Joseph to interpret the dreams of his fellow-prisoners, the butler and the baker. But Joseph was still left in prison, unjustly.
Prayer: Lord, we do not rely on dreams but on You and Your Word to guide us. Amen.
- ☐ **February 3** **Genesis 41: 1-57** **(Psalm 34: 17-22)**
Reflect: How wonderful that God raises up those who are oppressed! Joseph's humility and wisdom move him to acknowledge that it is God who is blessing him.
Prayer: O Father, because of Your blessings to us, move us to be a blessing to others. Amen.
- ☐ **February 4** **Genesis 42:1-38** **(Psalm 36:5-10)**
Reflect: A sense of guilt in Joseph's brothers is slowly uncovered as they are led through a furnace of fear. God is preparing them for His special purposes.
Prayer: O God; You are in all the happenings of our lives. .You guide us with Your love. Amen.
- ☐ **February 5** **Genesis 43:1-34** **(Psalm 37: 3-7)**
Reflect: The brothers go back to Egypt to buy food this time taking with them Benjamin, Joseph's full brother, the only other son of his mother Rachel.
Prayer: Thank You, Lord, that behind Your severity, Your favour still shines on us. Amen.
- ☐ **February 6** **Genesis 44:1-34** **(Psalm 38: 21, 22)**
Reflect: Joseph learns through the missing cup episode, that there's a change in the attitude of his brothers. No longer do they act callously toward their father's favourite son.
Prayer: Lord God, I/we are afflicted with jealousy, please transform us by Your grace. Amen.
- ☐ **February 7** **Genesis 45:1-28** **(Psalm 40:1,5,10,11)**
Reflect: Aren't we deeply moved by the reconciliation of Joseph with his brothers, and how God brought joy again to their father Jacob's heart?
Prayer: Thank You, Father, You make the tough times to work together for our good. Amen.
- ☐ **February 8** **Genesis 46: 1-7; 26-34** **(Psalm 42: 1-5)**
Reflect: At God's command and under God's promise, Jacob moves back to Egypt with his family. Many blessings would flow out to the whole world from his twelve sons: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Isachar, Zebulun, Gad, Asher, Joseph, Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali.
Prayer: Father, after separation, we thank You for reconciliation and reunion. Amen.
- ☐ **February 9** **Genesis 47: 1-28** **(Psalm 43: 3-5)**
Reflect: Over against the famine, the sons of Jacob prosper. Jacob, the humble herdsman meets Pharaoh, the mighty potentate and benefactor and even blesses *him!*
Prayer: Lord, because You have so blessed us, help us to be a blessing to others. Amen.
- ☐ **February 10** **Genesis 47: 29-48:22** **(Psalm 46:1-11)**
Reflect: Jacob assures his sons that they will one day return to the Land of Promise. In spite of their time in Egypt, God will continue to bless them.
Prayer: Father, we humbly praise You for showing us such great faithfulness. Amen.
- ☐ **February 11** **Genesis 49: 1-28a** **(Psalm 47:1-9)**
Reflect: In Jacob's last words, he gives a special blessing to each of his sons and especially to Judah's line from whom the Messiah would come.
Prayer: We praise you, O God, for the unfolding of Your promises of a Saviour. Amen.
- ☐ **February 12** **Genesis 49: 28b-50:26** **(Psalm 50:1-8,15)**
Reflect: Jacob's death and Joseph's end were given great respect by their families. Joseph was again reminded that God would lead His people eventually to the Land of Promise.
Prayer: O God, we praise You for the many times You have overcome evil with good. Amen.

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- ☐ **February 13 Exodus 1: 1-22 (Psalm 51: 1-12)**
Reflect: We are appalled that the new Pharaoh wants to curb the growth of the Israelites commanding that all male babies be drowned in the River Nile.
Prayer: O Lord, if someone over us asks us to do what is wrong help us to refuse. Amen.
- ☐ **February 14 Exodus 2: 1-25 (Psalm 52: 8,9)**
Reflect: We see God's mysterious ways of protecting and guiding Moses through his birth, his upbringing, his flight to the desert and his marriage.
Prayer: Thank you, Father for the times You rescued us in impossible situations. Amen.
- ☐ **February 15 Exodus 3:1-22 (Psalm 54:1,2,4)**
Reflect: The living God, the great "I am who I am" calls Moses to deliver his people from the slavery of Egypt. God assures him of eventual success.
Prayer: Lord God, thank You that despite heavy odds, Your promises will come true. Amen.
- ☐ **February 16 Exodus 4: 1-31 (Psalm 55:1,2,16-18,22)**
Reflect: God gave Moses three signs that he was to show the Israelites and to Pharaoh. The Israelites believed Moses and with new hope worshipped God.
Prayer: Thank you, Father, that You take pity on us and help us when we are afflicted. Amen.
- ☐ **February 17 Exodus 5: 1-21 (Psalm 56:3,4,12,13)**
Reflect: The appeal of Moses and Aaron to let the people go was met by an increased burden of work. The people complained bitterly. Moses complained to God who was unrelenting.
Prayer: Father, if we feel vexed in the midst of trials, uplift us and give us patience. Amen.
- ☐ **February 18 Exodus 6: 1-13 (Psalm 53:1-3,7-11)**
Reflect: God renews His covenant to give Canaan to his people. In spite of the present objections, He re-assures Moses that eventually Pharaoh would even drive out the Israel.
Prayer: Lord God, when Your command is clear, remove our hesitation to obey. Amen.
- ☐ **February 19 Exodus 7:1-25 (Psalm 59:16,17)**
Reflect: God makes Moses His ambassador to Pharaoh. Aaron, the spokesman for Moses, performs miracles with his rod and the serpents. Pharaoh hardens his heart and God turns the Nile into blood, the first of ten plagues.
Prayer: Lord God, help us to heed you're your warnings against disobedience, lest we suffer. Amen.
- ☐ **February 20 Exodus 8: 1-32 (Psalm 1:1-5)**
Reflect: Three more plagues: frogs, lice and flies still do not move Pharaoh. He hardens his heart again and will not let God's people go.
Prayer: O Lord, enable us to listen to Your warnings and to obey Your voice. Amen
- ☐ **February 21 Exodus 9: 1-35 (Psalm 62: 5-8)**
Reflect: In spite of a fifth plague (of cattle disease), a sixth (of boils and blains), and a seventh (of hail), Pharaoh continues to harden his heart and close his ears to God.
Prayer: Gracious Lord, keep us and many more in a state of daily repentance and faith. Amen.
- ☐ **February 22 Exodus 10: 1-29 (Psalm 63: 1-8)**
Reflect: In the eighth plague (of locusts) and the ninth (of darkness) God again manifests His power, but still spares the Egyptians that they may come to know Him as the all-powerful God.
Prayer: O Lord, we confess there is none in all the world like You in power and glory. Amen.
- ☐ **February 23 Exodus 11: 1-10 (Psalm 65: 1-13)**
Reflect: Through Moses God warns Pharaoh of a tenth plague in which the first-born of every Egyptian family would die. Pharaoh will not listen so God now finally hardens Pharaoh his heart.
Prayer: Lord God, give us grace never to harden our hearts but to heed your warnings. Amen.
- ☐ **February 24 Exodus 12: 1-44 (Psalm 66: 1-12,20)**
Reflect: The Israelites observed the Passover just as God commanded and by night they left Egypt in haste, being delivered at last from Egyptian slavery.
Prayer: In You, O Lord Jesus, our Paschal Lamb, we shall be saved from eternal death. Amen.
- ☐ **February 25 Exodus 13: 1-22 (Psalm 67: 1-7)**
Reflect: God commands an annual celebration of the Passover Festival to help Israel to remember with thankfulness His mighty acts of deliverance, especially from Egypt's slavery.
Prayer: O God; even as You guided Your people, so guide us by the light of Your Word. Amen.

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☐ **February 26 Exodus 14:1-31 (Psalm 68:18-20)**

Reflect: As Pharaoh's armies pursued the Israelites, Moses urged his terrified people saying: "Fear not, stand firm and see the salvation of the Lord. Let the Lord fight for us. And be still."

Prayer: Lord; when we are in dire straits, let us go forward trusting in You. Amen.

☐ **February 27 Exodus 15:1-27 (Psalm 69:1-8)**

Reflect: After their miraculous deliverance at the Red Sea, Moses leads the people in a song of triumph: "In Your steadfast love, O Lord, You led Your people whom You have redeemed."

Prayer: O Jesus, even as You triumphed over death, we too shall conquer in Your power. Amen

☐ **February 28 Exodus 16:1-36 (Psalm 72:1-8, 17-20)**

Reflect: Manna and quail were God's gift to Israel in the wilderness graciously given in response to the murmurings of dissatisfied people who chided Moses for bringing them out there to starve.

Prayer: O Jesus, You are the true bread of life which alone can satisfy our hunger. Amen.

☐ **February 29 Exodus 17:1-16 (Psalm 73:23-26)**

Reflect: A great time of testing now begins in the wilderness wanderings. In answer to their question: "Is the Lord among us or not?" God causes Moses to bring water out of a rock!

Prayer; Lord God; please turn the bitter waters of our afflictions into sweet blessings. Amen.