

# Read Through the Old Testament

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

## **GET INTO IT ANYWAY YOU CAN!**

**APRIL, YEAR A**

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

- ☐ **April 1**      **Numbers 1: 1-4, 54**      **Psalm 106: 43-48**  
Reflect: Though the Book of Numbers begins with a census of the people, yet in the Hebrew Bible, the Book is called: "In the Wilderness." They would be in the desert for 40 years.  
*Prayer: O God, we trust in You to guide us all the way to the Promised Land. Amen.*
- ☐ **April 2**      **Numbers 2: 1-4, 32-34**      **Psalm 107:1-7**  
Reflect: God commanded that the people be arranged symmetrically around the Tabernacle, three tribes on each side, symbolic of God's Presence.  
*Prayer: Heavenly Father, even as You led Your people of old, so lead us today. Amen.*
- ☐ **April 3**      **Numbers 3: 5-10, 38-39**      **Psalm 107: 8-14**  
Reflect: God calls Aaron's descendants to exercise the chief priestly function in the sanctuary. Other Levites are given to the Aaronic order to serve as priestly assistants.  
*Prayer: Lord, we praise You for the gift of our pastors to serve us with your Word. Amen.*
- ☐ **April 4**      **Numbers 6: 22-27**      **Psalm 107: 15-20**  
Reflect: The face of our Heavenly Father is full of the sunlight of salvation to those who turn to Him in faith.. The three-fold blessing reminds us of the Trinity and God's goodness.  
*Prayer: Father, thank You that in the benediction, You transmit to us Your peace. Amen.*
- ☐ **April 5**      **Numbers 7: 1-11, 89**      **Psalm 107: 21-30**  
Reflect: The leaders gave gifts for the dedication of the altar. God looks for a response to His goodness from His beneficiaries. He used the Tabernacle to speak directly with Moses.  
*Prayer: Lord God, inspire Your love in us to give You our gifts of gratitude. Amen.*
- ☐ **April 6**      **Numbers 8:1-26**      **Psalm 107: 31-43**  
Reflect: The sanctuary lights were to be lit so as to illuminate the Holy Place. This reminded the people to let their light shine in the darkness of this world. Washing with water for the Levites was symbolic of spiritual cleansing.  
*Prayer: O Christ, thank You for our pastors who serve us with Your cleansing Word. Amen.*
- ☐ **April 7**      **Numbers 9:1-5, 15-20**      **Psalm 108: 1-6**  
Reflect: The people's obedience in regard to the Passover is exemplary. So is also their trust in God to guide and protect them in their difficult desert journey.  
*Prayer: Lord God, let the fiery pillar of Your Word guide us every day. Amen.*
- ☐ **April 8**      **Numbers 10: 1-10; 29-36**      **Psalm 109: 21-31**  
Reflect: At the call of the silver trumpets, the people moved forward obediently with the Ark of the Covenant leading them. This was symbolic of the Lord's throne upon which He was seated, invisibly, waging a holy war.  
*Prayer: Almighty God, even as Moses invited his father-in-law to join the Israelite community, so may we invite people into Your Kingdom. Amen.*
- ☐ **April 9**      **Numbers 11: 1-23; 31-34**      **Psalm 110: 1-7**  
Reflect: The people complained about meat; they wanted to go back to Egypt, where there was plenty. God gave them what they craved, and they gorged themselves. Because of their complaining attitude, God struck them with a plague and many died.  
*Prayer: Thank You, O God, for turning bane into blessing in what we ask You for. Amen.*
- ☐ **April 10**      **Numbers 12: 1-18**      **Psalm 111: 1-10**  
Reflect: Miriam and Aaron became jealous of their brother Moses' relationship to God in spite of Moses' great humility. God punished Miriam with a week of leprosy!  
*Prayer: Please, God, replace our jealousy with rejoicing over the gifts of others. Amen.*
- ☐ **April 11**      **Numbers 13: 1-3; 17-33**      **Psalm 112: 1-7**  
Reflect: In a reconnaissance of the land, some of the spies brought back an exaggerated report that fearsome obstacles stood in the way of conquering Canaan.  
*Prayer: Lord God, thank You for the times our obstacles became opportunities.. Amen.*

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☐ **April 12**                      **Numbers 14: 1-35**                      **Psalm 113: 1-9**

Reflect: The people murmured against Moses and Aaron and wanted to return to Egypt. Joshua and Caleb tried to assure them that Canaan was a good land, a land of milk and honey. Grumblers would not be permitted to enter the Land of Promise. .

*Prayer: Loving Father, we plead with You to lead our nation to repentance and faith. Amen.*

☐ **April 13**                      **Numbers 15: 1-16**                      **Psalm 114: 1-8**

Reflect: God gave regulations about the cereal and drink offerings that were to accompany burnt offerings and peace offerings. Non-Jews were to be treated like Jews..

*Prayer: O Jesus, help us to accept new adult members with heart-felt welcome. Amen.*

☐ **April 14**                      **Numbers 16: 1-35**                      **Psalm 115: 1-18**

Reflect: Korah, son of Levi, and several others were jealous of Aaron and sought the priesthood for themselves. They rebelled against God who had given the priesthood to Aaron. God opened the ground and 250 rebels were swallowed up.

*Prayer: O Lord, please protect Your Church from those who upset Your ministry. Amen.*

☐ **April 15**                      **Numbers 16: 36-50**                      **Psalm 116: 1-19**

Reflect: It is difficult to conceive of a more striking instance of opposition to God's will than this outbreak of this same spirit of rebellion , so soon!

*Prayer: Gracious Father, we thank You for Christ, the Perfect High Priest who by His perfect sacrifice delivered us from the plague of Your wrath. Amen.*

☐ **April 16**                      **Numbers 17: 1-13**                      **Psalm 117: 1-2**

Reflect: In order to confirm Aaron's authority as leader of the entire priestly tribe of Levi, the Lord caused Aaron's rod to blossom while the staves representing all the other tribes, showed no signs of life. This sign was to convince the rebels to stop their murmurings.

*Prayer: Lord God, we praise You for the eternal priesthood of Christ who saves us and intercedes for us. Amen.*

☐ **April 17**                      **Numbers 18: 1-20**                      **Psalm 118: 1-9**

Reflect: Because Aaron and the Levites were not given any land inheritance, they were to be supported from a share of the offerings and sacrifices. They were to apply themselves daily to the ministrations in the sanctuary.

*Prayer: Lord of the Church, because You want pastors to devote themselves to the ministry of the Word, move the members to support them with their gifts and prayers. Amen.*

☐ **April 18**                      **Numbers 19: 1-19**                      **Psalm 119: 1-8**

Reflect: God gave instructions on how to cleanse a person who had become defiled by touching a corpse. Ashes from a ceremonially burnt heifer were added to water in which the person washed. This would bring cleansing, symbolic of the removal of sin.

*Prayer: Merciful Father, we thank You for the cleansing waters of Holy Baptism, assuring us of the removal of sin by the purifying blood of Christ. Amen.*

☐ **April 19**                      **Numbers 20: 1-29**                      **Psalm 119: 9-16**

Reflect: Because Israel could not enter Canaan from the south, they attacked from the east. God asked Moses to strike the rock to get water and they were given water. But because of their unbelief, that generation passed away without seeing the Promised Land.

*Prayer: O Lord God, thanks for the water of life that springs up into eternal life. Amen.*

☐ **April 20**                      **Numbers 21: 1-25**                      **Psalm 119: 17-24**

Reflect: An attack by fiery serpents was regarded as God's judgment upon their murmuring. Whoever was bitten by a serpent and looked up at the bronze serpent with faith in God's promises, would be saved.

*Prayer: We lift up eyes of faith to You, O Lord Jesus, dying on the cross for our sins. Amen.*

☐ **April 21**                      **Numbers 22: 1-35**                      **Psalm 119: 25-32**

Reflect: Fearful of the triumphant Israelites, Balak the Moabite king invited Balaam, a Mesopotamian diviner, to put a curse on the Israelite invaders. But God spoke through Balaam's ass to thwart the evil plan of Balak.

*Prayer: O Lord, instead of curses that evil people try to put on us, give us grace. Amen.*

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**April 22**

**Numbers 23:1-30**

**Psalm 119: 33-40**

Reflect: Because Balak was afraid of Israel, he hired Balaam to curse them. But Balaam tells Balak he must say what God asks him to say, regardless.

*Prayer: We praise You, Heavenly Father, that though Your enemies try hard to overthrow Your will, they cannot succeed. Amen.*



**April 23**

**Numbers 24: 1-25**

**Psalm 119: 41-48**

Reflect. Even Balaam with all his magic cannot alter the fact that Israel is a very special people with a special destiny. Therefore instead of cursing Israel, he blessed them. Balaam prophesies a Star will come out of Jacob. Balak will be conquered.

*Prayer: Thank You, Almighty God, for Your promises that You will conquer all enemies and give final victory to Your people in Jesus our King. Amen.*



**April 24**

**Numbers 25: 1-18**

**Psalm 119: 49-56**

Reflect: Balaam sought revenge on God's people by giving the Midianites some devilish counsel: they could conquer Israel by tempting them to worship false gods.

*Prayer: O Lord God, restrain the rapid growth of immorality in our world today. Amen.*



**April 25**

**Numbers 26: 1-14; 51; 63-65**

**Psalm 119: 57-64**

Reflect: A second census helps to ascertain the strength of the tribes. During the wilderness sojourn, the tribe of Simeon had suffered the most severe loss of all: 37,100. The census gave a basis for allocating the land after the conquest of Canaan.

*Prayer: O God, help us to be warned that though You are a God of grace yet Your judgments are carried out with terrifying exactness. Keep us close to You in faith. Amen.*



**April 26 Numbers 27: 1-23**

**Psalm 119: 65-72**

Reflect: Some female descendants of Joseph petitioned that their family line should receive land. Petition was granted. Before Moses' death, he appointed Joshua as his successor. God would speak with him, not face to face as with Moses, but through Eleazer the priest.

*Prayer: O Father, give us wise and godly leaders and keep them ever faithful to You. Amen.*



**April 27**

**Numbers 28: 1-31**

**Psalm 119: 73-80**

Reflect: The Lord gave to His people very detailed and explicit directions for sacrifices and offerings. These were to be observed with great exactness since God's honour was thereby exalted. In this way, fellowship between God and His people was to be maintained.

*Prayer: We thank You, Gracious Father, that You have removed for us the burden of Your laws of sacrifice. Move us to offer our total selves as daily thank-offerings for all Your mercies. Amen.*



**April 28**

**Numbers 29: 1-11; 39-40**

**Psalm 119: 81-88**

Reflect: God gave directives for the sacrifices to be made such as at New Year and the Day of Atonement, and the feast of booths : when they would celebrate the harvest ingathering.

*Prayer: O Living God, help us to use the festival times to remember Your mighty acts. Amen.*



**April 29**

**Numbers 30: 1-8**

**Psalm 119: 89-96**

Reflect: The Lord gave regulations concerning vows to be strictly observed. He was preparing them for living in Canaan, wanting to prevent them from making frivolous and foolish promises. Better not to make a promise than make it and not keep it.

*Prayer: Dear Father, inspire husbands and wives with love to be faithful to their vows. Amen.*



**April 30**

**Numbers 31: 1-24; 51-54**

**Psalm 119: 97-104**

Reflect: Through this holy war God would punish the Midianites for their corrupting influence on the Israelites. After contact with many dead corpses, God's people needed ritual cleansing. Some of the booty from the victory was to go to the Tabernacle.

*Prayer: O God, we stand in awe of Your wrath over sin but we rejoice in Your grace. .Amen.*