

PLANNING TO  
READ THE  
OLD TESTAMENT



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It's quite straightforward to read the New Testament in a year, but attempting to read the Old Testament in one year is a very different challenge. Being is so much bigger, it usually requires that we read several chapters each day, which is a lot, and if you miss a couple of days or take a holiday, it's quite a big job to catch up.

Perhaps the first question to consider is:

*Why are you thinking of doing this in the first place? (That applies equally to all Bible reading.) What is your purpose?*

Is your purpose:

- a) to familiarise yourself with it;
- b) to study it; or
- c) to feed on it?

Whatever your answer, doing it over two or three years would make it far more manageable for most people.

If your primary reason for wanting to read the Old Testament is to feed on God's word, soaking yourself in it, reflecting on it, then perhaps setting any timescale at all isn't necessarily the best way. In which case, why not take the pressure off yourself; perhaps select a history book such as Joshua and read it as narrative. Read as much or little as you like but pause whenever you wish so that you can study it, look up a commentary or reflect further on the words you were reading.

Why not have a Journal, either physical or online, in which you can make notes about what you were learning or what God is speaking to you? Work your way through in fellowship with the Holy Spirit and with your purpose in mind. When you come to the end of a book you could have a break or move straight on to a different book with another style, such as poetry, wisdom literature, the Law, or prophecy. There's plenty to choose from.

*Unintentionally elevating the achievement of reading the required amount above feeding on God's word is a seductive danger that most of us fall into at different times.*

## HOW TO APPROACH READING THE OLD TESTAMENT

The Old Testament is a complex book. It's worth looking at it – after all, it's the word of God! Careful reading can help us understand the platform on which the New Testament stands.

A good way of starting would be to learn how it is built; what types of literature are there, and what is the story? Before planning an Old Testament schedule, you might want to grasp the Old Testament panorama of history. That will allow you to understand where the events/books fit in with the big story.

You might try the following for starters:

- [The Old Testament in 8 minutes](#)
- [A Panoramic View of the Old Testament](#)
- [3 minute guides to every book of the Old Testament](#)
- [A Complete Biblical Timeline](#)

*Before planning an Old Testament schedule...*

Of course, having read all this you may be thinking that you need some kind of plan to help you keep going. Why not consider reading the Old Testament in Chronological Order? Do it undated; go at your own daily pace and schedule.

You may still desire to read the whole of the Old Testament in one year. What is stopping you? Go online and find an appropriate reading plan. You can find suggestions for an amazingly large number of possibilities, or even find an online generator to make your own. Above all, ask the Holy Spirit to bring the words to life. And look for Jesus in the Old Testament; the written word points us to the Word made flesh!

Read (New Testament) **John 1:1-3; 1 John 1:1-3; Hebrews 1: 1-4.**

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MINISTRIES

*Further resources are available from*

[roygodwin.org](http://roygodwin.org)