

BIBLE READING CHALLENGE 2023

In 2022 I took the challenge to read the Bible in 40 days. No small feat, let me tell you. I went through the Old Testament and then into the books of the Apocrypha, or “the things that are hidden.” From there I traveled through the New Testament and finished on the fortieth day.

I would like you to join me in a similar challenge. Read the Bible during Lent and/or beyond. Why? Because it is life changing. You get to look at the Bible in a totally different way. Instead of reading short snippets of Scripture (a verse here and a chapter there), you get dramatic stories of characters that meld into more dramatic stories of other characters. By reading the Bible in large chunks, a richer understanding of how God purposely and lovingly works through people and creation is gained. When you finish, you feel as though you did something big and important for your faith, so that it may grow even deeper.

Reading the Bible over 40, 90, and even 180 days takes time. For my part, I had to spend at least an hour and a half per day. If you take the 90- or 180-day challenges, you will be in the Bible for many months, yet each daily reading will not take up as much time.

However you read the Bible, just do it. Begin any challenge and spend the time to explore Scripture. Gain an experience like none other. Let your faith expand in a unique and special way.

Here are a few pointers to consider along the way:

The 40-day Challenge (which I call The Half-Marathon) should start on Ash Wednesday, February 22. All other challenges may start on any Monday.

Print out the page of your challenge. Keep it tucked away in your Bible or journal.

Commit to the reading each day. 30, 60, 90 uninterrupted minutes – whatever it takes to complete each day.

Before reading, always ask God to open your eyes, ears, and heart to what God has prepared for you.

Read without stopping to consult commentaries or Bible study notes. Henri Nouwen says that we should just let “God’s Spirit master us.” It is about capturing the big picture of Scripture. So, read it like you would a novel.

Draw a line through the Day and Scripture selection when you finish. If not, it is too easy to lose your place going from week to week.

For two of the challenges, you get a break on Sunday. Yay! Enjoy them. Or, catch up on reading if you lagged behind.

Share your experiences with others. Let friends and family know what God is doing for you during each reading.

God’s word is a wonder. I was grateful for the time I spent in it, and I look forward to delving in once more. May you enjoy the experience with God. May God deepen your faith and love through his holy word.

BIBLE READING CHALLENGE 2023

THE HALF-MARATHON – Reading the Bible in 40 days (taking Sundays off)

Day 1 (Ash Wednesday) – Genesis 1-27

Day 2 – Genesis 28-50

Day 3 – Exodus 1-34

Day 4 – Exodus 35 - Leviticus 15

Break on Sunday

Day 5 – Leviticus 16 - Numbers 13

Day 6 – Numbers 14-36

Day 7 – Deuteronomy 1-34

Day 8 – Joshua 1 - Judges 10

Day 9 – Judges 11-21; Ruth 1-4; 1 Samuel 1-13

Day 10 – 1 Samuel 14 - 2 Samuel 10

Break on Sunday

Day 11 – 2 Samuel 11 - 1 Kings 6

Day 12 – 1 Kings 7 - 2 Kings 5

Day 13 – 2 Kings 6 - 1 Chronicles 10

Day 14 – 1 Chronicles 11 - 2 Chronicles 2

Day 15 – 2 Chronicles 3-36

Day 16 – Ezra 1-10 and Nehemiah 1-13

Break on Sunday

Day 17 – Esther 1-10 and Job 1-42

Day 18 – Psalm 1-50

Day 19 – Psalm 51-100

Day 20 – Psalm 101-150

Day 21 – Proverbs 1-31

Day 22 – Ecclesiastes 1-12 and Song of Songs 1-8

Break on Sunday

Day 23 – Isaiah 1-40

Day 24 – Isaiah 41-60

Day 25 – Isaiah 42 - Jeremiah 18

Day 26 – Jeremiah 19-52

Day 27 – Lamentations 1 - Ezekiel 20

Day 28 – Ezekiel 21-48

Break on Sunday

Day 29 – Daniel 1-12 & Hosea 1-14

Day 30 – Joel 1-3; Amos 1-9; Obadiah; Jonah 1-4;
Micah 1-7; and Nahum 1-3

Day 31 – Habakkuk 1-3; Zephaniah 1-3;

Haggai 1-2; Zechariah 1-14; Malachi 1-4

Day 32 – Matthew 1-28

Day 33 – Mark 1-16

Day 34 – Luke 1-24

Break on Sunday

Day 35 – John 1-21

Day 36 – Acts 1-28

Day 37 – Romans 1-16 and 1 Corinthians 1-15

Day 38 – 2 Corinthians 1-13; Galatians 1-6;

Ephesians 1-6; Philippians 1-4;

Colossians 1-4; and 1 & 2 Thessalonians

Day 39 – 1 Timothy 1-6; 2 Timothy 1-4; Titus 1-3;

Philemon; Hebrews 1-13; and James 1-5

Day 40 – 1 Peter 1-5; 2 Peter 1-3; 1 John 1-5;

2 John; 3 John; Jude; Revelation 1-22

Easter Sunday! Congratulations!

THE IRONMAN/WOMAN CHALLENGE – ONE WEEK (No breaks)

Here's a bonus challenge that is not for the faint of heart. The seminary professor, who proposed and did this binge reading of the Bible, went on vacation in order to complete it. Listed below are the hours it took him per day. He asked his family not to interrupt him at all during the time. God's strength, if you should take this on!

Day 1 – Genesis 1 – Deuteronomy 34 (7.33 hours)

Day 2 – Joshua 1 – 2 Kings 25 (6.47 hours)

Day 3 – 1 Chronicles 1 – Psalm 150 (5.86 hours)

Day 4 – Proverbs 1 – Lamentations 5 (4.55 hours)

Day 5 – Ezekiel 1 – Malachi 4 (3.57 hours)

Day 6 – Matthew 1 – Acts 28 (4.89 hours)

Day 7 – Romans 1 – Revelation 22 (3.22 hours)

BIBLE READING CHALLENGE 2023

THE MARATHON – Reading the Bible in 90 days (no breaks)

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| Day 1 – Genesis 1-14 | Day 36 – Job 39-Psalm 9 | Day 71 – Matthew 1-13 |
| Day 2 – Genesis 15-28 | Day 37 – Psalm 10-22 | Day 72 – Matthew 14-26 |
| Day 3 – Genesis 29-42 | Day 38 – Psalm 23-35 | Day 73 – Mat. 27-Mark 11 |
| Day 4 – Genesis 43-Exodus 6 | Day 39 – Psalm 36-48 | Day 74 – Mark 12-Luke 8 |
| Day 5 – Exodus 7-20 | Day 40 – Psalm 49-61 | Day 75 – Luke 9-21 |
| Day 6 – Exodus 21-34 | Day 41 – Psalm 62-74 | Day 76 – Luke 22-John 10 |
| Day 7 – Exodus 35-Leviticus 8 | Day 42 – Psalm 75-87 | Day 77 – John 11-Acts 2 |
| Day 8 – Leviticus 9-22 | Day 43 – Psalm 88-100 | Day 78 – Acts 3-15 |
| Day 9 – Leviticus 23-Numbers 9 | Day 44 – Psalm 101-113 | Day 79 – Acts 16-28 |
| Day 10 – Numbers 10-23 | Day 45 – Psalm 114-126 | Day 80 – Romans 1-13 |
| Day 11 – Numbers 24-36 | Day 46 – Psalm 127-139 | Day 81 – Rom. 14-1 Cor. 10 |
| Day 12 – Deuteronomy 1-15 | Day 47 – Psalm 140-Proverbs 2 | Day 82 – 1 Cor 11-2 Cor. 7 |
| Day 13 – Deuteronomy 16-29 | Day 48 – Proverbs 3-15 | Day 83 – 2 Cor. 8-Galatians 6 |
| Day 14 – Deut. 30-Joshua 9 | Day 49 – Proverbs 16-28 | Day 84 – Eph. 1-Col. 4 |
| Day 15 – Joshua 10-23 | Day 50 – Pro. 29-Ecclesiastes 10 | Day 85 – 1 Thess. 1-1 Tim. 6 |
| Day 16 – Joshua 24-Judges 13 | Day 51 – Ecc. 11-Isaiah 3 | Day 86 – 2 Tim. 1-Hebrews 4 |
| Day 17 – Judges 14-1 Samuel 2 | Day 52 – Isaiah 4-16 | Day 87 – Hebrews 5-James 5 |
| Day 18 – 1 Samuel 3-16 | Day 53 – Isaiah 17-29 | Day 88 – 1 Peter 1-1 John 5 |
| Day 19 – 1 Samuel 17-30 | Day 54 – Isaiah 30-42 | Day 89 – 2 John 1-Revelation 9 |
| Day 20 – 1 Samuel 31-2 Samuel 12 | Day 55 – Isaiah 43-55 | Day 90 – Revelation 10-22 |
| Day 21 – 2 Samuel 13-24 | Day 56 – Isaiah 56-Jeremiah 2 | Congratulations! You Did It! |
| Day 22 – 1 Kings 1-14 | Day 57 – Jeremiah 3-15 | |
| Day 23 – 1 Kings 15-2 Kings 5 | Day 58 – Jeremiah 16-28 | |
| Day 24 – 2 Kings 6-18 | Day 59 – Jeremiah 29-41 | |
| Day 25 – 2 Kings 19-1 Chronicles 6 | Day 60 – Jer. 42-Lamentations 2 | |
| Day 26 – 1 Chronicles 7-19 | Day 61 – Lam. 3-Ezekiel 10 | |
| Day 27 – 1 Chr. 20-2 Chr. 3 | Day 62 – Ezekiel 11-23 | |
| Day 28 – 2 Chronicles 4-16 | Day 63 – Ezekiel 24-36 | |
| Day 29 – 2 Chronicles 17-29 | Day 64 – Ezekiel 37-Daniel 1 | |
| Day 30 – 2 Chronicles 30-Ezra 6 | Day 65 – Daniel 2-Hosea 2 | |
| Day 31 – Ezra 7-Nehemiah 9 | Day 66 – Hosea 3-Joel 1 | |
| Day 32 – Nehemiah 10-Esther 9 | Day 67 – Joel 2-Obadiah 1 | |
| Day 33 – Esther 10-Job 12 | Day 68 – Jonah 1-Nahum 3 | |
| Day 34 – Job 13-25 | Day 69 – Habakkuk 1-Zechariah 5 | |
| Day 35 – Job 26-38 | Day 70 – Zechariah 6-Malachi 4 | |

BIBLE READING CHALLENGE 2023

THE DOUBLE MARATHON – Reading the Bible in 180 days (taking Sundays off)

Day 1 – Genesis 1-8
Day 2 – Genesis 9-16
Day 3 – Genesis 17-23
Day 4 – Genesis 24-27
Day 5 – Genesis 28-32
Day 6 – Genesis 33-38
Day 7 – Break

Day 8 – Genesis 39-44
Day 9 – Genesis 45-50
Day 10 – Exodus 1-8
Day 11 – Exodus 9-14
Day 12 – Exodus 15-20
Day 13 – Exodus 21-27
Day 14 – Break

Day 15 – Exodus 28-33
Day 16 – Exodus 34-39
Day 17 – Exodus 40 - Leviticus 7
Day 18 – Leviticus 8-13
Day 19 – Leviticus 14-19
Day 20 – Leviticus 20-25
Day 21 – Break

Day 22 – Leviticus 26 - Numbers 3
Day 23 – Numbers 4-7
Day 24 – Numbers 8-14
Day 25 – Numbers 15-20
Day 26 – Numbers 21-26
Day 27 – Numbers 27-32
Day 28 – Break

Day 29 – Numbers 33 - Deut. 2
Day 30 – Deuteronomy 3-7
Day 31 – Deuteronomy 8-14
Day 32 – Deuteronomy 15-22
Day 33 – Deuteronomy 23-28
Day 34 – Deuteronomy 29-33
Day 35 – Break

Day 36 – Deut. 34 – Joshua 7
Day 37 – Joshua 8-12
Day 38 – Joshua 13-19
Day 39 – Joshua 20 – Judges 1
Day 40 – Judges 2-7
Day 41 – Judges 8-12
Day 42 – Break

Day 43 – Judges 13-19
Day 44 – Judges 20 – Ruth 4
Day 45 – 1 Samuel 1-7
Day 46 – 1 Samuel 8-14
Day 47 – 1 Samuel 15-19
Day 48 – 1 Samuel 20-25
Day 49 – Break

Day 50 – 1 Sam. 26 – 2 Sam. 1
Day 51 – 2 Samuel 2-8
Day 52 – 2 Samuel 9-14
Day 53 – 2 Samuel 15-19
Day 54 – 2 Samuel 20 – 1 Kings 3
Day 55 – 1 Kings 4-8
Day 56 – Break

Day 57 – 1 Kings 9-13
Day 58 – 1 Kings 14-18
Day 59 – 1 Kings 19-22
Day 60 – 2 Kings 1-6
Day 61 – 2 Kings 7-12
Day 62 – 2 Kings 13-17
Day 63 – Break

Day 64 – 2 Kings 18-22
Day 65 – 2 Kings 23 – 1 Chr. 1
Day 66 – 1 Chronicles 2-6
Day 67 – 1 Chronicles 7-11
Day 68 – 1 Chronicles 12-18
Day 69 – 1 Chronicles 19-24
Day 70 – Break

Day 71 – 1 Chr. 25 – 2 Chr. 1
Day 72 – 2 Chronicles 2-9
Day 73 – 2 Chronicles 10-18
Day 74 – 2 Chronicles 17-24
Day 75 – 2 Chronicles 25-30
Day 76 – 2 Chronicles 31-36
Day 77 – Break

Day 78 – Ezra 1-8
Day 79 – Ezra 9 – Nehemiah 5
Day 80 – Nehemiah 6-11
Day 81 – Nehemiah 12 – Job 3
Day 82 – Job 4-13
Day 83 – Job 14-23
Day 84 – Break

Day 85 – Job 24-33
Day 86 – Job 34-42
Day 87 – Psalm 1-17
Day 88 – Psalm 18-31
Day 89 – Psalm 32-42
Day 90 – Psalm 43-56
Day 91 – Break

Day 92 – Psalm 57-70
Day 93 – Psalm 71-79
Day 94 – Psalm 80-93
Day 95 – Psalm 94-106
Day 96 – Psalm 107-118
Day 97 – Psalm 119-130
Day 98 – Break

Day 99 – Psalm 131-150
Day 100 – Proverbs 1-9
Day 101 – Proverbs 10-16
Day 102 – Proverbs 17-24
Day 103 – Proverbs 25-31
Day 104 – Ecclesiastes 1-10
Day 105 – Break

Day 106 – Ecc. 11 – Songs 8
Day 107 – Isaiah 1-8
Day 108 – Isaiah 9-17
Day 109 – Isaiah 18-26
Day 110 – Isaiah 27-33
Day 111 – Isaiah 34-40
Day 112 – Break

Day 113 – Isaiah 41-46
Day 114 – Isaiah 47-54
Day 115 – Isaiah 55-62
Day 116 – Isa. 63 – Jer. 2
Day 117 – Jeremiah 3-7
Day 118 – Jeremiah 8-13
Day 119 – Break

Day 120 – Jeremiah 14-21
Day 121 – Jeremiah 22-28
Day 122 – Jeremiah 29-33
Day 123 – Jeremiah 34-40
Day 124 – Jeremiah 41-47
Day 125 – Jeremiah 48-52
Day 126 – Break

BIBLE READING CHALLENGE 2023

THE DOUBLE MARATHON – Reading the Bible in 180 days (continued)

Day 127 – Lamentations 1-5

Day 128 – Ezekiel 1-10

Day 129 – Ezekiel 11-17

Day 130 – Ezekiel 18-23

Day 131 – Ezekiel 24-31

Day 132 – Ezekiel 32-37

Day 133 – Break

Day 134 – Ezekiel 38-44

Day 135 – Ezekiel 45 – Daniel 3

Day 136 – Daniel 4-9

Day 137 – Daniel 10 – Hosea 7

Day 138 – Hosea 8 – Joel 3

Day 139 – Amos 1 – Obadiah 1

Day 140 – Break

Day 141 – Jonah 1 – Micah 7

Day 142 – Nahum 1 – Zephaniah 3

Day 143 – Haggai 1 – Zechariah 9

Day 144 – Zechariah 10 – Malachi 4

Day 145 – Matthew 1-9

Day 146 – Matthew 10-16

Day 147 – Break

Day 148 – Matthew 17-24

Day 149 – Matthew 25 – Mark 2

Day 150 – Mark 3-9

Day 151 – Mark 10-16

Day 152 – Luke 1-5

Day 153 – Luke 6-10

Day 154 – Break

Day 155 – Luke 11-17

Day 156 – Luke 18-23

Day 157 – Luke 24 – John 5

Day 158 – John 6-11

Day 159 – John 12-19

Day 160 – John 20 – Acts 5

Day 161 – Break

Day 162 – Acts 6-12

Day 163 – Acts 13-19

Day 164 – Acts 20-26

Day 165 – Acts 27 – Romans 7

Day 166 – Romans 8-16

Day 167 – 1 Corinthians 1-12

Day 168 – Break

Day 169 – 1 Corinthians 13 – 2 Corinthians 7

Day 170 – 2 Corinthians 8 – Galatians 6

Day 171 – Ephesians 1 – Philippians 4

Day 172 – Colossians 1 – 2 Thessalonians 3

Day 173 – 1 Timothy 1 – Philemon 1

Day 174 – Hebrews 1-10

Day 175 – Break

Day 176 – Hebrews 11 – 1 Peter 5

Day 177 – 2 Peter 1 – Jude 1

Day 178 – Revelation 1-7

Day 179 – Revelation 8-15

Day 180 – Revelation 16-22

Congratulations – You Made It!