

*Understanding*  
**Times and Seasons**

*Part 6*

**Time to Read**  
**The Book of the LORD!**

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Written and Illustrated By  
M. J. Beattie

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(Comments or questions may be addressed to [mjbeattie@cgsf.org](mailto:mjbeattie@cgsf.org).)

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## Remember the Law of Moses

Yes, “remember the Law of Moses” (Malachi 4:4). This is God’s message for the descendants of Israel and for all of God’s people at the close of this dark, dark age. But how can people remember something that they have never heard?

Moses, while he was alive, was expected to teach God’s Law to the Israelites:

“Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Come up to me on the mountain, and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments which I have written, that you may teach them’ ” (Exodus 24:12\*).

At Mount Sinai the people were frightened by hearing from God directly. So God said He would meet with them at the tabernacle they built for Him. But God would talk to Moses, and Moses would relay God’s words to the people (Deuteronomy 5:23-33; Exodus 20:18-21; 25:21-22; 29:42-43).

Sabbaths and holy days were established for holy convocations with God (Leviticus 23). These were times for the people to worship God and to be taught by Him through His written Word.

### He who has an ear, Let him hear!

The Scriptures have much to say about *hearing* the Word of God. For after entry into the Promised Land, the Law required that it be taught — *read aloud* — in the sacred assembly to the whole congregation together — even to those too young to be *able* to read.

“So Moses wrote this law and delivered it to the priests, the sons of Levi... and to all the elders of Israel. And Moses commanded them, saying: ‘At the end of *every* seven years, at the appointed time in the year of release, at the Feast of Tabernacles, when all Israel comes to appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses,

you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing. Gather the people together, men and women and little ones, and the stranger who *is* within your gates, that they may hear and that they may learn to fear the LORD your God and carefully observe [observe to *do*, KJV] all the words of this law, and *that* their children, who have not known it [which have not known *any thing*, KJV], may hear and learn to fear the LORD your God...” (Deuteronomy 31:9-13).

Leaders of the people were instructed to read and study the law themselves:

“After the death of Moses...the LORD spoke to Joshua... saying... ‘Be strong and of good courage... be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success” (Joshua 1:1,6-8).

Notice that the Book of the Law was not to depart from Joshua’s *mouth*. It was to be his daily “bread”, his food for thought to direct his steps. And he was also expected to teach it — to read it to the people at the appointed times, and to have it always on the tip of his tongue, ready to wisely instruct others at any given moment.

“Now Joshua built an altar to the LORD God of Israel in Mount Ebal... an altar of whole stones... and there, in the presence of the children of Israel, he wrote on the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he had written... And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessings and the cursings, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law. There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded which Joshua did not read before all the congregation of Israel, with the women, the little ones, and the strangers who were living among them” (Joshua 8:30-32,34-35).

God’s word was also supposed to be in the mouths of the Levitical priests:

“My covenant was with him [Levi], *one* of life and peace, and I gave them to him *that he might* fear Me; so he feared Me and was reverent before My name. The law of truth was in his mouth, and injustice was not found on his lips. He walked with Me in peace and equity, and turned many away from iniquity. For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, and *people* should seek the law from his mouth; for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts” (Malachi 2:5-7).

“The LORD spoke to Aaron, saying: ‘Do not drink wine or intoxicating drink, you, nor your sons with you, when you go into the tabernacle of meeting, lest you die. *It shall be* a statute for ever throughout your generations, that you may distinguish between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean, and that you may teach

\*The New King James Version is used throughout except as otherwise noted.

the children of Israel all the statutes which the LORD has spoken to them by the hand of Moses” (Leviticus 10:8-11).

After Moses and Joshua, the judges ruled:

“So the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD which He had done for Israel... Then the LORD raised up judges who delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them. Yet they would not listen to their judges, but they played the harlot with other gods... In those days *there was* no king in Israel; everyone did *what was* right in his own eyes” (Judges 2:7,16-17; 21:25).

The judges had no absolute authority over the people. The blessings for faithfully obeying the Law of Moses, and the curses for failing to do so, were administered directly by God. But the people generally failed to recognize the hand of God in their lives. They wanted a human king. So God gave them the kind of king that they asked for (1 Samuel 8; Hosea 13:9-11).

Under the kings, God’s blessings and curses still applied, but the nation did what was right in the king’s eyes — for good or for bad, better or worse. Some of the kings that God gave the Israelites were kings after God’s *own* heart — kings who faithfully reflected the nature of God and served Him.

Israel’s king was commanded to imbibe of the Law of Moses on a daily basis:

“When you come to the land which the LORD your God is giving you, and possess it and dwell in it, and say, ‘I will set a king over me...’ it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from

*the one* before the priests, the Levites. And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes, that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment *to* the right hand or *to* the left, and that he may prolong *his* days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel” (Deuteronomy 17:14,18-20).

King David went above and beyond what was commanded. He put his love for God to music, and commissioned others to do the same. In extolling the praises of God’s Law, Psalms 1 and 119 are especially noteworthy.

Judah’s King Jehoshaphat also did what was right in God’s sight:

“Now the LORD was with Jehoshaphat, because he... sought the God of his father, and walked in His commandments... And his heart took delight in the ways of the LORD... Also in the third year of his reign he sent his leaders... to teach in the cities of Judah. And with them *he sent* Levites... and... priests. So they taught in Judah, and *had* the Book of the Law of the LORD with them; they went throughout all the cities of Judah and taught the people. And the fear of the LORD fell on all the kingdoms of the lands that *were* around Judah, so that they did not make war against Jehoshaphat” (2 Chronicles 17:3-10).

The kings did not always do what they were supposed to do. But another shining example is found in the story of Judah’s King Josiah. In Josiah’s days:

“Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, ‘I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the LORD.’ And

## Psalm 1

Blessed *is* the man  
Who walks not in the counsel  
of the ungodly,  
Nor stands in the path of sinners,  
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;  
But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD,  
And in His law he meditates day  
and night.  
He shall be like a tree  
Planted by the rivers of water,  
That brings forth its fruit in its season,  
Whose leaf also shall not wither;  
And whatever he does shall prosper.  
The ungodly *are* not so,  
But *are* like the chaff which the wind  
drives away.  
Therefore the ungodly shall not stand  
in the judgment,  
Nor sinners in the congregation of the  
righteous.  
For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
But the way of the ungodly shall perish.

## Psalm 119:97-104

Oh, how I love Your law!  
It *is* my meditation all the day.  
You, through Your commandments,  
make me wiser than my enemies;  
For they *are* ever with me.  
I have more understanding than all  
my teachers,  
For Your testimonies *are* my meditation.  
I understand more than the ancients,  
Because I keep Your precepts.  
I have restrained my feet from every evil way,  
That I may keep Your word.  
I have not departed from Your judgments,  
For You Yourself have taught me.  
How sweet are Your words to my taste,  
*Sweeter* than honey to my mouth!  
Through Your precepts I get understanding;  
Therefore I hate every false way.

Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it. So Shaphan the scribe went to the king... [and] showed the king, saying, 'Hilkiah the priest has given me a book.' And Shaphan read it before the king.

"Now it happened, when the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, that he tore his clothes. Then the king commanded... 'Go, inquire of the LORD for me...' "So... [they] went to Huldah the prophetess ... And they spoke with her. Then she said to them, 'Thus says the LORD God of Israel, "Tell the man who sent you to me, 'Thus says the LORD: "Behold, I will bring calamity on this place and on its inhabitants — all the words of the book which the king of Judah has read — because they have forsaken Me and burned incense to other gods... But to the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, in this manner you shall speak to him, 'Thus says the LORD God... because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before the LORD when you heard what I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants... I will gather you to your fathers, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace; and your eyes shall not see all the calamity which I will bring on this place.' " ' So they brought word to the king.

"Then the king sent them to gather all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem to him. And the king went up to the house of the LORD with all the men of Judah, and with him all the inhabitants of Jerusalem — the priests and the prophets and all the people, both small and great; and he read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant which had been found in the house of the LORD. Then the king stood by a pillar and made a covenant before the LORD, to follow the LORD and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes, with

all *his* heart and all *his* soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people took their stand for the covenant...

"Now before [Josiah] there was no king like him, who turned to the LORD [made such major national changes] with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses; nor after him did *any* arise like him" (2 Kings 22:8-20; 23:1-3,25).

Ten of Judah's kings did what was right. But after Josiah, all of them did evil. So, in a series of deportations, the remnant of Judah (what was left after the 701 BC deportation of most of the Jews into Assyria) was carried captive into Babylon. And the last holdout, the city of Jerusalem, fell to the Babylonians in 587 BC, twenty-two years after Josiah died.

God had sent many prophets to the ancient Israelites and Jews telling them to repent. But they would not heed, so they were told:

"Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children" (Hosea 4:6).

Israel and Judah were carried captive out of the Promised Land because they failed to abide by the Mosaic Law, the Law of God. In refusing to obey God, they brought the curses of Leviticus 26:14-39 upon themselves.

### Return From Exile

After Babylon fell to the Medes and the Persians in 539 BC, the Jews were permitted to return to Jerusalem and rebuild. Then, eighty years later, God raised up Ezra, a priest of the seed of Aaron, to begin restoring Jerusalem to God's Word in Moses' Law:

"Ezra came up from Babylon; and he *was* a skilled scribe in the Law of Moses, which

the LORD God of Israel had given... Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do *it*, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel" (Ezra 7:6,10).

Ezra was "expert in the words [Hebrew: *dabar*] of the commandments of the LORD, and of His statutes to Israel" (Ezra 7:11). Ezra's journey to Jerusalem commenced the fulfillment of the seventy weeks prophecy; it was the Law of God in Ezra's hand (Ezra 7:14), as he set out from Babylon, that was "the going forth of the word [Hebrew: *dabar*] to restore and build Jerusalem" (Daniel 9:25, RSV).

Ezra began the restoration by building on the foundation of God's Word, as King Artaxerxes commanded him:

"And you, Ezra, according to your God-given wisdom, set magistrates and judges who may judge all the people who *are in the region* beyond the River, all such as know the laws of your God; and teach those who do not know *them*" (Ezra 7:25).

But Ezra had difficulties with the non-Israelite people of the land. They broke down the walls of Jerusalem and burned her gates with fire. So Nehemiah was sent to repair and govern the city. With Nehemiah's help, Ezra was able to carry on with his role as a priest and teacher of the Word of God:

"So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the congregation, of men and women and all who *could* hear with understanding, on the first day of the seventh month. Then he read from it in the open square that *was* in front of the Water Gate from morning until midday, before the men and women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people *were attentive* to the Book of the Law... Also [thirteen other men] and the Levites, helped the people to understand

the Law... So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped *them* to understand the reading” (Nehemiah 8:2-3,7-8).

Ezra was reading the Law *a thousand years* after Moses wrote it, so there may have been some archaic words or phrases that needed to be explained. But Ezra prepared himself for the task. And the people were ready to listen.

“Also [in the feast of tabernacles] day by day, from the first day until the last day, he read from the Book of the Law of God. And they kept the feast seven days; and on the eighth day *there was* a sacred assembly, according to the *prescribed* manner” (Nehemiah 8:18).

“Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, in sackcloth, and with dust on their heads. Then those of Israelite lineage separated themselves from all foreigners; and they stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers. And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God *for one-fourth* of the day; and *for another fourth* they confessed and worshiped the LORD their God” (Nehemiah 9:1-3).

### **New Testament Teachings**

After Ezra and Nehemiah, the Biblical story jumps forward more than 400 years to the time of John the Baptist and Jesus Christ. Some seem to think that Jesus came to do away with the need for the Old Testament laws. But that is not what we read in the Bible. Jesus said:

“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass

from the law till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:17-19).

Jesus said of John the Baptist that there was none greater born of women (Matthew 11:11; Luke 7:28). Like a Nazarite, John drank no wine; and he was “filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb” (Luke 1:15). His parents “were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless” (Luke 1:6). To be blameless they had to have lived by these instructions:

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD *is* one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart; you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up” (Deuteronomy 6:4-7).

So John’s parents undoubtedly taught him God’s laws day-in and day-out from birth. John, in turn, was commissioned to teach his wayward countrymen to repent.

“The word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins” (Luke 3:2-3).

And what is sin? What were the people supposed to repent of?

“Sin is the transgression of the law” (1 John 3:4, KJV).

Like Ezra, John committed his life to restoring the Jews to the Word of God — to the way of life spelled out in the Old Testament Law.

The Jews were under Gentile rule. They wanted to be restored to having a kingdom of their own. In anticipation of that restoration, John preached:

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” (Matthew 3:2).

Jesus and His disciples brought the same message as John the Baptist:

“Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe... the gospel’ ” (Mark 1:14-15). “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:17).

“And He called the twelve *to Him*, and began to send them out *two by two* ... So they went out and preached that *people* should repent.” (Mark 6:7,12).

After Jesus’ death and resurrection Peter taught:

“Repent... and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that the times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began” (Acts 3:19-21).

The message has been the same since the Garden of Eden. All have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God. And all people everywhere need to repent of disobedience to

the Creator, the Lord and Maker of us all. The Restoration, in its fullest sense, will not come until that message is hammered home and the descendants of Israel — and the Gentiles as well — finally do repent.

God talked to Adam directly. But He spoke to the ancient Israelites — and He speaks to us today — through the written Law of Moses. The Mosaic Law was *not* done away in Jesus. Rather, Jesus came to open the way for His disciples to *understand* how very good and wonderful that Law really was and is:

“The ministry of death, written *and* engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance... But their minds were hardened [blinded, KJV]. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the *veil* is taken away in Christ. But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away” (2 Corinthians 3:7,14-15).

The Old Testament Law is holy, just and good (Romans 7:12). It is worth reading privately — worth studying in depth. And it ought to be deemed worthwhile to devote time in every worship service to reading it aloud — not just as “proof texts” (tidbits gathered here a little, and there a little), but entire chapters and books, letting God’s Word speak for itself.

The Jews do read from the Law and the Prophets every Sabbath day<sup>1</sup>. The five books of Moses are read through on an annual basis,

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<sup>1</sup> See: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Torah\\_reading](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Torah_reading)  
<http://www.yashanet.com/shabbat/parsha.htm>  
<http://urj.org/learning/torah/schedule/>

finishing the reading of Deuteronomy each year at the Feast of Tabernacles and starting over with Genesis 1:1–6:8 on the Sabbath after the Feast. Selected portions from other Old Testament books (primarily from the Former and Latter Prophets) are also read every Sabbath. This is not some new-fangled invention of wayward Jews (although the *manner* of reading may have changed). These weekly readings are the continuation of an ancient practice — established long before the New Testament era:

“For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath” (Acts 15:21).

“And after the reading of the Law and the Prophets... Paul stood up, and... said, ‘...the Prophets... are read every Sabbath...’ ” (Acts 13:15-16,27).

Jesus participated in the Sabbath readings:

“... He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And, as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And... He... opened the book [and read]... ‘*The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me...*’ [Isaiah 61:1]” (Luke 4:16-18).

Paul instructed Timothy to make sure the Scriptures were being read and taught:

“Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching” (1 Timothy 4:13, RSV).

“Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound

doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth [from *hearing the Word of God!*], and be turned aside to fables (2 Timothy 4:2-4).

Paul also instructed that his own letters should be read aloud in the churches:

“I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read to all the holy brethren” (1 Thessalonians 5:27).

“Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans...” (Colossians 4:16).

Shouldn’t we, here at the end of this age, follow the Scriptural instructions and the examples of the holy men of old and *systematically* read the Word of God aloud to the whole congregation?

Or are we so good that we don’t need to hear the Scriptures read aloud anymore? What does the Bible say?

“If one turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination” (Proverbs 28:9, RSV).

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me... He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches” (Revelation 3:20,22).

“When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8, KJV).

“Faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17).



## The Reformation

While we look for the Elijah to come — for the man whom Jesus said would restore all things (Matthew 17:11; Mark 9:12; compare Acts 3:19-21) — it behooves us to look back and consider what was restored in the former restoration, the one that preceded Jesus' first coming.

Some give credit to Ezra for establishing the practice of reading the Law aloud in the synagogues each Sabbath. But for hundreds of years between Ezra and Christ, and even from the time of Moses, most people did not understand the Law because the veil was on their hearts.

The “restoration of all things” includes the restoration of the descendants of Israel to the Law of their God — *and* to the correct understanding of it. That is the work of the Elijah to come, just as it was the work of Ezra and later of John the Baptist.

“... John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!’ For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying:

‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the LORD, Make His paths straight” ’ [Isaiah 40:3].

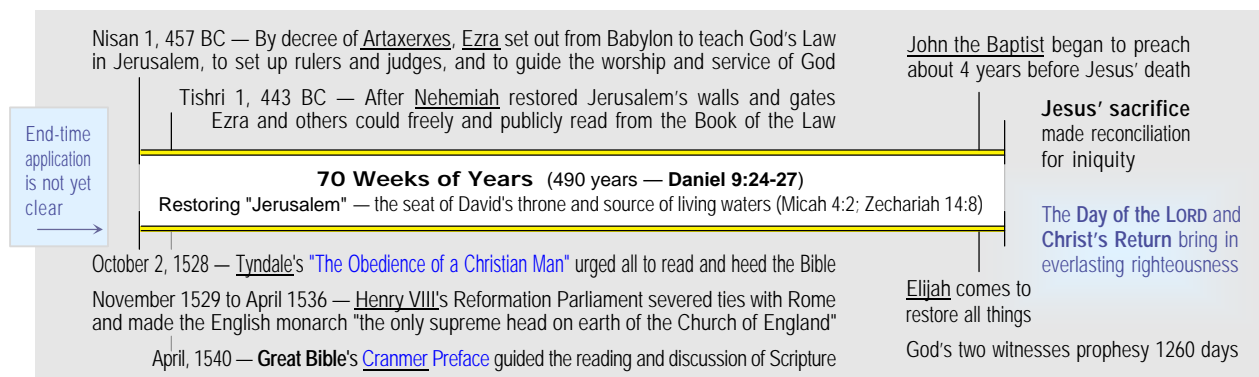
“And John... said... ‘Bear fruits worthy of repentance...’ ” (Matthew 3:1-8).

The mission of Ezra, and of John the Baptist as well, was to bring the people of Israel to repentance — to restore them to obedience to the Law which their forefathers disobeyed — and thereby to restore them to the good graces and favor of their God.

Ancient Israel was driven out of the Holy Land because they forgot the Law of Moses and turned aside from obeying God. Although

there is a “Jewish homeland” now in the Promised Land, it is a far cry from a full restoration. To be restored in full requires full repentance. And that means belief in and *obedience to God’s Law*, the Law of Moses.

Israel broke God’s Law. Israel needed to repent. And so do we.



The end-time restoration began in the context of the Protestant Reformation — when the Word of God was published in the every-day languages of the common people. At first, this was met with a great deal of resistance, persecution, and even martyrdom. But the Bible was finally made readily available to the “covenant people” (the British) after King Henry VIII allowed the 1537 publication of the *Thomas Matthew’s Bible* and then *commanded* that the *Great Bible* (1539-1541) be read aloud in all the churches of England.

But the end-time restoration that began in the 1500’s AD is far from finished. When Jesus’ disciples, after His resurrection, asked Him about the restoration, their question was this:

“Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” (Acts 1:6).

An independent kingdom *was* restored to the English descendants of Israel when Henry VIII shook off papal authority over England in 1529-34. And his efforts may mark the beginning of an end-time “seventy weeks”. But that was not

exactly what Jesus’ disciples had in mind. And the “Jewish homeland” in the State of Israel also falls far short of what the disciples envisioned.

They were looking to Jesus as the Messiah who would overthrow the Romans and become King of a utopian Israelite nation in the Promised Land — and for all Israel to return, both to

the Land *and* to their God (Jeremiah 30–31; 16:14-18; Ezekiel 47:13– 48:29, etc.). At present the “lost ten tribes” are still generally oblivious to who they really are. And even most of the Jews in Israel have yet to repent and return to their God. But the *completion* of the restoration, both to God *and* to the Promised Land, is not far off.

Soon Jesus will return as King of kings. He will restore David’s throne to Jerusalem, bring all Israel back to the Holy Land, and make the Law of Moses the Law of the whole world.

*So remember* the Law of Moses.

Read the Book!

And be ready to meet your God! For Heaven will be opened; the Most High will rule; and this sin-sick world will be brought to its knees — and delivered from the devil’s evil ways.

So let us pray:

Thy kingdom come! Thy will — *Thy Law, Thy Way* — be done on earth as it is in Heaven!

## How Long Does It Take to Read the Bible?

As noted earlier, Paul instructed Timothy to devote himself “to reading, [to the public reading of scripture, RSV] to exhortation, to teaching” (1 Timothy 4:13, Dby). Paul wanted Timothy to maintain the practice of reading from the Law and the Prophets each Sabbath. And Timothy was also expected to *exhort* the people to live by the Law and to *teach* them how.

There is a time to exhort, a time to teach — here a little and there a little. But if we leave out the public reading of the Law, sooner or later the teaching tends to degenerate into commandments of men learned by rote.

If the Scripture readings are skipped, and sermons consist of a mere sprinkling of Bible verses interwoven with lots of human rhetoric, a congregation may be strong in rote memory of certain doctrinal positions — but very weak in basic knowledge of the complete story of the Bible. And without the broad overview — without deep roots in the Scriptures — it can be very difficult to know for sure whether preachers are rightly dividing the Word of Truth.

We may think that we all have our own Bibles today, so we don’t need the public reading anymore. But is this true? Of course we should all read the Bible daily. But do we?

In a nation founded on religious freedom (the USA) — in a nation that cut its teeth on the Bible — we have become a people of Biblical illiterates, a people many of whom have never read nor heard more than a small percentage of the Bible.

Isn’t it time to turn that around?

Reading the Bible together in church ensures that everybody hears it. And it also puts everyone on the same page... so they can discuss the Scriptures together and admonish one another based on a common knowledge of what the Book says.

In these troubled times this world needs the witness of a people *who do know their God* (Daniel 11:32). And what better way is there for a people to draw near to God than for them to come together to hear directly what God has to say? Holy men of old from Moses through Paul — and even King Henry VIII *commanded* that the *Bible be read aloud* to the assembled congregations. But many have left that ancient practice.

As God thunders end-time punishment, Jeremiah wonders:

“To whom shall I speak and give warning, that they may hear? Behold, their ears are closed [Hebrew: *uncircumcised*], they cannot listen; behold, the word of the LORD is to them an object of scorn, they take no pleasure in it” (Jeremiah 6:10, RSV).

And God instructs:

“Thus says the LORD: ‘Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls’” (Jeremiah 6:16, RSV).

Yes, do as God’s servants did in ancient times. Follow the instructions of Moses and Paul, and read the Bible from the pulpit.

Establishing a *time* for a given task is often more important than just having an idea of what needs

to be done. If the Bible is to be read publicly in any systematic fashion it makes sense to plan the schedule based on known reading times.

In the following pages are the times of recorded readings for every chapter of the English Bible. These times were taken from audio files of Alexander Scourby’s reading of the King James Version.

The total time for reading the Bible aloud adds up to just seventy-two hours.

Now, if you think about it, that’s not really all that much time. At just twelve minutes a day, one could finish the Bible in 360 days.

For congregational reading, consider this: There are fifty or fifty-four Sabbaths in a Hebrew year, plus seven annual holy days with two weeklong feasts, and (for those who believe in keeping them) twelve or thirteen new moons as well. Just one hour of public reading of the Word of God on each day of assembly and the entire Bible could be completed in not much more than a year — maybe less. Or, if focusing just on the five books of Moses, readings of fifteen minutes at a time would cover the whole Law in fifty-four sittings.

In this context, consider the following passages. God says:

“I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran. I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in My counsel, and had caused My people to hear My words, then they would have turned them from their evil way and from the evil of their doings” (Jeremiah 23:21-22).



“If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, *from* doing your pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy *day* of the LORD honorable, and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words, then you shall delight yourself in the LORD; and I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the LORD has spoken” (Isaiah 58:13-14).

Let’s step aside, folks. Let’s not trample on God’s holy time by speaking our own words. Instead, let the Almighty God, who made us out of the dust of the earth, be heard.

God has set apart His Sabbath days to spend time with His children — to enjoy their praise and expressions of thanks, and to teach them His ways. And God is perfectly capable of doing the “teaching” Himself, if the human preachers would just get out of the way and let the Word of God speak!

Why not do as they did in the days of Ezra, Jesus and Paul? The priests and other men of the congregation read substantial sections of God’s written words verbatim to the whole congregation. And then they would discuss it.

The Sabbath day is not a time for us to take center stage. To push *the Word of God* aside in favor of humanly concocted sermons with a limited number of Scriptures (or none at all) is an *abomination*. And it is also *defilement of the Sabbath* to while away the fellowship hours with chatter about the latest ball game, movie, or other worldly interest... or gossip.

So, let’s step aside. Let’s not trample on God’s holy Sabbath days. Let everyone’s focus

throughout the day be on worship and praise, and on reading and sharing of the knowledge and good things of God.

And preachers, *please* don’t be beating around the bush from the pulpit. Instead, *let the bush speak!* — or rather, the holy God who dwelt in the bush.

“Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil. Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter *any* thing before God: for God *is* in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few. For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool’s voice *is known* by multitude of [his own] words” (Ecclesiastes 5:1-3, KJV).

In this era, God *does* do His speaking through human instruments. He makes Himself known to us primarily through His written Word — as it is read, studied, and discussed by those who fear Him (Malachi 3:16). But He also inspires some with special gifts for teaching.

Ezra, and the other leading men with him, did not just read the Bible to the people. They also “gave the sense, and helped *them* to understand the reading” (Nehemiah 8:8). And Paul taught that (presumably *after* the holy readings), the “prophets” — God’s inspired servants — should be allowed to put in their two cents worth:

“Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge. But if *anything* is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged. And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. For God is not *the author* of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints” (1 Corinthians 14:29-33).

Jesus’ disciples are supposed to speak. They are supposed to teach God’s ways to His people. But we are just the salt of the earth. The Word of God is the Bread. So let *our* words be few; and let *the Bread of Life* — God’s words — be ever on our lips, as it is prophesied:

“ ‘And he will come to Zion as Redeemer, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression, says the LORD. And as for me, this *is* my covenant with them says the LORD: my spirit which is upon you, and my words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouth of your children, or out of the mouth of your children’s children, says the LORD, from this time forth and for evermore’ ” (Isaiah 59:20-21, RSV).

If God can speak through an ass, he can speak through any one of us. But we have to get out of the way, fill our hearts and minds with the pure Word of God, and — with fasting and prayer — let it be God’s words that flow from us.

We are called to be kings (rulers) and priests (teachers) — called to learn God’s laws so we can judge righteous judgment and teach the way to everlasting Life:

“But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9).

Jesus has “washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father... made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth” (Revelation 1:5-6; 5:10).

To qualify to rule with Christ — to be called great in the Kingdom of God (Matthew 5:19)

— we must do as Ezra did: learn God’s laws, live by them, and gain experience in teaching them (Ezra 7:10). God’s instruction, that ancient Israel’s leaders should imbibe of His Law daily, applies just as much to us as it did to them.

But, just because we all have our own Bibles and can read from them daily is no excuse to neglect the Sabbath readings. Rather, personal study is the means by which the Sabbath readings take on new light, and can be properly understood and explained.

### Here a Little, There a Little

God’s written Word is not organized by subject matter. In order to fully understand the teachings of the Bible we need *both* the broad overview (obtained by reading the Book from cover to cover) *and* careful studies of individual subjects.

God put His laws and prophecies in the Bible as treasures hidden in a field. Each verse is like one piece of a giant (over 31,000-piece) jigsaw puzzle. To see the full picture we have to examine and properly place each piece — rightly dividing and arranging the Word of Truth, as Jesus explained:

“Every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure *things* new and old” (Matthew 13:52).

We need to put the Scriptures, both from the Old Testament and the New, into the *treasure house* of our hearts so we can be led by the Spirit of God to understand them all.

“When He, the Spirit of truth, has come [when the spirit of the Father dwells in you], He [the Father] will guide you into all truth... and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you. All things that

the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare *it* to you” (John 16:13-15).

Through His spirit dwelling in us, the Father guides us to understand the words of Jesus Christ — in both the Old Testament and the New<sup>2</sup>. But, if the Scriptures are not in our hearts, how can we be led to understand them?

The Bible was not designed to be understood without bringing the various pieces together:

“Whom will he teach knowledge?  
And whom will he make to understand  
the message?  
Those *just* weaned from milk?  
Those *just* drawn from the breasts?  
For precept *must be* upon precept,  
precept upon precept,  
Line upon line, line upon line,  
Here a little, there a little.

For with stammering lips and another tongue  
He will speak to this people.  
To whom He said, ‘This *is* the rest *with which*  
You may cause the weary to rest,’  
And, ‘This *is* the refreshing’;  
Yet they would not hear.  
But the word of the LORD was to them,  
‘Precept upon precept, precept upon precept,  
Line upon line, line upon line,  
Here a little, there a little,’  
That they might go and fall backward,  
and be broken  
And snared, and caught” (Isaiah 28:9-13).

God does not teach the difficult things to those whose knowledge of God is limited to funnel-learning from the pulpit.

“For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need *someone* to teach you

<sup>2</sup> Jesus is the “Word” of God, the Creator — the God who spoke to Adam, Abraham, Moses and the prophets (John 1:1-5,14)

again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes *only* of milk *is* unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, *that is*, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil” (Hebrews 5:12-14).

Nevertheless, the milk of the Word, as it is read verbatim from the pulpit — or in private, is still important.

“As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby” (1 Peter 2:2).

We all must drink in of the Word of God. But the pure milk of the Word in the holy Sabbath readings is not enough for those who want to be rulers and teachers. God instructs leaders to write out and read and meditate on the Word of God every day. They are to diligently search through, dig deep and rightly divide the Scriptures — and reveal God’s hidden treasures to others.

“For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known. Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops” (Matthew 10:26-27).

### The Big Picture

Having heard sermons preached to us — here a little and there a little, week after week, year after year for decades — we might think that we know our Bibles pretty well.

But do we?

How much of our understanding of basic doctrines comes from in-depth personal study — paired with the broad overview of the

Scriptures? And how much of it came from just a few “memory verses” learned by rote — apart from the big picture of the Bible as a whole?

Do we really know the Scriptures? How much of the Bible have we heard in church? Have we ever read it from cover to cover ourselves? And if so, did we understand what we read? Or do we need to read it again?

Within the churches of God, using the here a little and there a little method of preaching (tallying from three different organizations and over 180 speakers), careful record keeping has shown that a mere 8% of the Bible is read in church in any given year. And because the same verses are used over and over again, that number doesn’t go up by much over the course of multiple years — and it gradually levels off to where, at the current rate, only about 25% is read in seven years, and 30% in a lifetime. So the majority of the Bible is being neglected.

What does the other 70% of the Bible say?

Do you know?

“ ‘Behold, the days are coming,’ says the Lord GOD, ‘that I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD, but shall not find *it*. In that day the fair virgins and strong young men shall faint from [spiritual] thirst’ ” (Amos 8:11-13).

We, as a people, have failed to value and heed the Scriptures. We have failed to systematically read the Law aloud in the sacred assembly. Our nation’s leaders no longer read and study the Law daily. Nor do very many preachers. And as parents we have failed to diligently teach God’s laws to our children and grandchildren,

day in and day out, and throughout each day, all the days of our lives — as the Law commands (Deuteronomy 6:1-9). So there has been a famine of the hearing of the word — in the world, in our churches, and in our homes. But God is turning that around.

“ ‘Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, ‘when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah... I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,’ says the LORD. ‘For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more’ ” (Jeremiah 31:31,33-34).

The Father will lead us into understanding all of the Truth *if* the words of God are written on our hearts and *if* we live by them.

“A good understanding have all those who do *His commandments*” (Psalm 111:10).

So let’s be diligent to hear and heed God’s words, as Moses instructed:

“Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep, and do them” (Deuteronomy 5:1, KJV).

As noted earlier, the Bible is like a big jigsaw puzzle. Sometimes (without looking at the picture on the box top) we can anticipate what a puzzle will look like when only some of the pieces are in place; but sometimes we guess wrong. And some pieces can be forced to fit where they really don’t belong. They sure may *look* like they fit. But the error only becomes obvious when more of the puzzle is in place.

And so it is with the Word of God. If our knowledge of the Scriptures is limited, then our odds of correctly understanding them is also limited.

We may think that we know the truth of the Bible because we have heard it preached for so many years. But do we really *know* our God? Or are we blissfully resting on our laurels when the battle is not yet won — when there is yet far more to be learned?

It is far too easy to rely on other people’s research and commentaries for our understanding — easy to build our version of the “truth” on a mere sprinkling of “proof texts” which may or may not be fully understood.

Do we really know it all? To the current era of the Church of God, Jesus says:

“Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’ [saying in effect ‘We are Philadelphian’]—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me... He who has an ear let him hear what the spirit says to the churches” (Revelation 3:17-20,22).

The time has come to turn our hearts to the hearing of the Word of God — time to be zealous to *hear*, to *heed* and to *do what God says*.

“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God” (Luke 4:4).

“To the law and to the testimony: if they do not speak according to this word, *it is because there is no light in them*” (Isaiah 8:20).

Remember     **The Law of Moses**

The message of Malachi speaks to us today:

“‘For behold, the day is coming,  
 Burning like an oven,  
 And all the proud,  
     yes, all who do wickedly, will be stubble.  
 And the day which is coming shall burn them up,’  
 Says the LORD of hosts,  
 ‘That will leave them neither root [parent]  
     nor branch [offspring].  
 But to you who fear My name  
 The Sun of Righteousness shall arise  
 With healing in His wings;  
 And you shall go out  
 And grow fat like stall-fed calves.  
 You shall trample the wicked,  
 For they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet  
 On the day that I do *this*,’  
 Says the LORD of hosts.

“‘Remember the Law of Moses, My servant,  
 Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel,  
 With the statutes and judgments.  
 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet  
 Before the coming of the great and  
     dreadful day of the LORD.  
 And he will turn  
 The hearts of the fathers to the children [to stop  
     the murder of the innocent unborn babes],  
 And the hearts of the children [of Israel] to their  
     Fathers [to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob... and to  
     Moses... Samuel... and King David...],  
 Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.’ ”

— Malachi 4:1-6

“Let every man be swift to hear... But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves... He who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does” (James 1:19,22,25).

Genesis		Exodus		Leviticus		Numbers		Deuteronomy	
chapter	time	chapter	time	chapter	time	chapter	time	chapter	time
1	4:59	1	2:51	1	2:35	1	6:35	1	6:50
2	3:32	2	3:36	2	2:30	2	4:09	2	5:08
3	3:44	3	4:42	3	2:18	3	6:36	3	4:21
4	3:35	4	4:58	4	5:04	4	6:53	4	7:57
5	2:47	5	3:13	5	3:20	5	4:36	5	4:25
6	3:08	6	4:15	6	4:22	6	3:40	6	3:27
7	3:06	7	3:44	7	5:07	7	9:02	7	4:20
8	3:17	8	5:06	8	4:55	8	3:30	8	2:58
9	3:39	9	5:08	9	3:03	9	3:31	9	4:53
10	3:00	10	4:43	10	3:22	10	4:23	10	3:12
11	3:22	11	1:50	11	6:00	11	5:36	11	4:35
12	2:43	12	8:05	12	1:21	12	2:05	12	5:06
13	2:21	13	3:42	13	8:46	13	3:36	13	3:04
14	3:06	14	4:47	14	7:41	14	6:03	14	3:31
15	2:45	15	4:19	15	4:30	15	5:13	15	3:32
16	2:18	16	5:31	16	5:30	16	6:55	16	3:29
17	3:39	17	2:31	17	2:59	17	1:47	17	3:24
18	4:22	18	3:56	18	3:45	18	5:27	18	2:59
19	5:17	19	3:36	19	5:21	19	3:28	19	3:05
20	2:40	20	3:06	20	4:24	20	4:09	20	3:07
21	4:06	21	4:32	21	3:08	21	4:37	21	3:32
22	3:27	22	4:05	22	4:42	22	5:47	22	4:27
23	2:37	23	4:28	23	6:34	23	3:53	23	3:36
24	8:29	24	2:36	24	2:59	24	3:37	24	3:22
25	4:02	25	4:45	25	7:44	25	2:12	25	2:48
26	4:30	26	4:47	26	7:21	26	7:29	26	3:17
27	6:21	27	2:58	27	4:48	27	3:01	27	3:17
28	3:13	28	6:22			28	3:47	28	10:56
29	4:01	29	6:45			29	4:30	29	4:13
30	5:16	30	5:04			30	2:21	30	3:19
31	7:11	31	2:22			31	6:00	31	5:14
32	4:13	32	5:43			32	5:02	32	7:23
33	2:38	33	3:47			33	4:40	33	4:18
34	3:46	34	5:38			34	3:05	34	1:48
35	3:32	35	4:17			35	4:41		
36	4:50	36	4:23			36	2:13		
37	4:54	37	3:32						
38	4:14	38	4:14						
39	2:56	39	5:11						
40	2:52	40	4:19						
41	7:30								
42	5:19								
43	5:05								
44	4:16								
45	4:05								
46	4:15								
47	5:11								
48	3:43								
49	5:08								
50	4:01								
<b>Genesis</b>	3:23:01	<b>Exodus</b>	2:53:27	<b>Leviticus</b>	2:04:09	<b>Numbers</b>	2:44:09	<b>Deuteronomy</b>	2:24:53

**Moses' Law**  
 Total Reading Time: 13:29:39 (h:m:s)

## Former Prophets

Total Reading Time: 11:06:23 (h:m:s)

Joshua-Judges				Samuel-Kings							
Joshua		Judges		1 Samuel		2 Samuel		1 Kings		2 Kings	
chapter	time	chapter	time	chapter	time	chapter	time	chapter	time	chapter	time
1	2:47	1	5:08	1	4:05	1	3:47	1	7:37	1	3:21
2	3:27	2	3:36	2	5:49	2	4:42	2	7:47	2	4:28
3	2:42	3	4:27	3	3:09	3	5:50	3	4:24	3	4:20
4	3:24	4	3:54	4	3:48	4	1:57	4	4:00	4	6:54
5	2:43	5	4:25	5	2:09	5	3:19	5	2:42	5	5:03
6	4:15	6	6:20	6	3:59	6	3:19	6	5:09	6	5:19
7	4:44	7	4:33	7	2:53	7	4:44	7	7:21	7	3:54
8	5:39	8	4:58	8	2:52	8	2:26	8	11:46	8	4:54
9	3:56	9	7:52	9	4:57	9	2:09	9	4:23	9	6:02
10	6:53	10	2:19	10	4:39	10	2:56	10	4:23	10	5:59
11	3:35	11	5:56	11	2:27	11	4:06	11	6:36	11	3:31
12	2:17	12	2:07	12	4:06	12	5:13	12	5:15	12	3:18
13	4:24	13	3:46	13	3:32	13	5:41	13	5:25	13	4:15
14	2:24	14	3:17	14	8:00	14	5:32	14	5:00	14	4:26
15	6:03	15	3:05	15	5:33	15	5:42	15	4:42	15	5:23
16	1:21	16	5:09	16	3:37	16	3:48	16	4:54	16	3:12
17	3:13	17	1:50	17	8:15	17	4:38	17	3:23	17	6:45
18	4:00	18	4:42	18	4:21	18	5:40	18	7:37	18	6:14
19	5:32	19	4:54	19	3:32	19	7:17	19	3:59	19	6:17
20	1:33	20	6:26	20	6:29	20	4:17	20	7:25	20	3:18
21	5:02	21	3:35	21	2:24	21	3:53	21	4:36	21	3:38
22	6:24			22	3:40	22	5:16	22	8:03	22	3:27
23	2:54			23	4:20	23	4:32			23	7:06
24	5:41			24	3:33	24	4:24			24	2:56
				25	7:06					25	4:54
				26	4:35						
				27	1:58						
				28	4:38						
				29	1:58						
				30	4:19						
				31	1:59						
<b>Joshua</b>	1:34:53	<b>Judges</b>	1:32:19	<b>1 Samuel</b>	2:08:42	<b>2 Samuel</b>	1:45:08	<b>1 Kings</b>	2:06:27	<b>2 Kings</b>	1:58:54
<b>Joshua-Judges:</b>			3:07:12	<b>Samuel-Kings:</b>							7:59:11

### The Former Prophets tell the history of Israel in the Promised Land.

Just as the stories of Israel in the wilderness “were written for our admonition, on whom the ends of the ages have come” (1 Corinthians 10:11), so, the books of Joshua and Judges, Samuel and Kings give

history lessons, for us to learn from the experiences of the Israelites in the Promised Land. God also told Israel’s story to Moses in advance, and put it in a song. That song, the *Song of Moses*, begins with an

admonition from Moses to cherish what Moses had to say, as he taught the great things of God:

“Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak;  
 And hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.  
 Let my teaching drop as the rain,  
 My speech distill as the dew,  
 As raindrops on the tender herb,  
 And as showers on the grass.  
 For I proclaim the name of the LORD:  
 Ascribe greatness to our God.  
 He is the Rock, His work is perfect;  
 For all His ways are justice,  
 A God of truth and without injustice;  
 Righteous and upright is He...”  
 — Deuteronomy 32:1-4

The story continues:

“So Moses... spoke all the words of this song in the hearing of the people... and... said to them: “Set your hearts on all the words which I testify among you today, which you shall command your children to be careful to observe; all the words of this law. For it is not a futile thing for you, because it is your life, and by this word you shall prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess.”  
 — Deuteronomy 32:44,46-47

These words also applied to those who crossed over the ocean into the New World — in accord with the “manifest destiny” of Abraham to inherit the world (Romans 4:13). And they apply to us today, as we stand on the brink of the transition into the Kingdom of God on earth.

Will we give ear, hear and heed Moses’ words? Or will we fail to learn the lessons of Israel’s history and fall in our own “wilderness”?

# Latter Prophets

Total Reading Time: 14:28:58 (h:m:s)

Isaiah				Jeremiah				Ezekiel (Cont.)		The Twelve						
chapter	time	chapter	time	chapter	time	chapter	time	chapter	time	chapter	time	chapter	time	chapter	time	
1	4:33	41	4:56	1	2:46	41	3:03	25	2:38	<b>Hosea</b>		<b>Jonah</b>		<b>Zephaniah</b>		
2	2:54	42	4:11	2	6:07	42	3:24	26	3:39	1	1:47	1	2:26	1	2:56	
3	3:34	43	4:07	3	4:42	43	2:05	27	5:11	2	3:22	2	1:12	2	2:47	
4	1:06	44	5:30	4	5:13	44	5:52	28	4:23	3	0:48	3	1:21	3	3:32	
5	4:54	45	4:40	5	5:14	45	0:50	29	3:30	4	2:43	4	1:52			
6	2:20	46	2:09	6	4:59	46	4:16	30	3:37	5	2:00					
7	3:37	47	3:01	7	5:16	47	1:13	31	3:18	6	1:26				9:15	
8	3:08	48	3:23	8	4:06	48	6:37	32	5:16	7	2:08					
9	3:15	49	4:42	9	4:21	49	6:18	33	5:36	8	1:52					
10	5:12	50	1:58	10	3:36	50	8:07	34	4:57	9	2:41		6:51	1	2:17	
11	2:53	51	4:11	11	3:49	51	10:17	35	1:59	10	2:25			2	3:26	
12	0:50	52	2:27	12	3:06	52	5:11	36	6:01	11	1:44	<b>Micah</b>				
13	3:10	53	2:15	13	4:15			37	4:29	12	1:43	1	2:28		5:43	
14	5:03	54	2:47	14	4:10			38	3:47	13	2:19	2	2:06			
15	1:39	55	2:12	15	3:43	<b>Ezekiel</b>		39	4:37	14	1:24	3	1:50	<b>Zechariah</b>		
16	2:37	56	2:03	16	3:35	1	4:17	40	7:06		28:22	4	2:30	1	3:20	
17	2:25	57	3:26	17	4:23	2	1:31	41	3:40	<b>Joel</b>		5	2:19	2	1:39	
18	1:26	58	2:57	18	3:31	3	4:04	42	2:39	1	2:56	6	2:26	3	1:37	
19	3:59	59	3:33	19	2:59	4	2:45	43	4:12	2	5:20	7	3:28	4	1:55	
20	1:04	60	3:52	20	3:08	5	3:26	44	4:58	3	3:28			5	1:42	
21	2:25	61	2:18	21	2:35	6	2:35	45	4:08		11:44			6	2:05	
22	3:37	62	2:03	22	4:53	7	4:27	46	4:00	<b>Amos</b>				7	1:57	
23	2:49	63	3:02	23	6:37	8	3:26	47	3:44	1	2:16		17:07	8	3:41	
24	3:26	64	1:57	24	1:46	9	2:05	48	4:48	2	2:24	<b>Nahum</b>		9	2:53	
25	2:15	65	4:17	25	6:00	10	3:19			3	2:08	1	2:12	10	2:01	
26	3:18	66	4:24	26	3:57	11	3:32	<b>Daniel</b>		4	2:31	2	2:01	11	2:34	
27	2:16			27	3:47	12	4:11	1	3:00	5	3:41	3	3:13	12	2:21	
28	4:34			28	2:50	13	4:02	2	7:57	6	2:04			13	1:46	
29	4:13			29	5:12	14	3:47	3	5:26	7	2:31			14	3:48	
30	5:59			30	4:04	15	1:01	4	7:06	8	2:08				33:19	
31	1:50			31	7:17	16	10:15	5	5:20	9	2:46					
32	2:45			32	7:07	17	4:01	6	4:42				7:26			
33	3:46			33	4:26	18	5:21	7	5:12			<b>Habakkuk</b>		1	2:40	
34	2:49			34	4:07	19	1:59	8	4:33			1	2:32	2	2:57	
35	1:41			35	3:18	20	8:22	9	5:22			2	3:12	3	3:06	
36	3:43			36	5:19	21	5:18	10	3:34			3	2:53	4	1:12	
37	6:18			37	3:13	22	4:36	11	7:32	<b>Obadiah</b>						
38	3:14			38	4:47	23	7:26	12	2:10	1	3:33					
39	1:19			39	2:46	24	4:13				3:33		8:37		9:55	
40	4:45			40	3:16											
<b>Book Totals:</b>		<b>Isaiah</b>	3:33:02	<b>Jeremiah</b>	3:47:29	<b>Ezekiel</b>	3:22:12	<b>Daniel</b>	1:01:54	<b>The Twelve</b>						2:44:21

“Now it shall come to pass in the latter days *that* the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above

the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of

Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.’ For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem” (Isaiah 2:2-3).



# Psalms

Total Reading Time: 4:09:43 (h:m:s)

Psalm Book 1		Psalm Book 2		Psalm Book 3		Psalm Book 4		Psalm Book 5	
psalm	time	psalm	time	psalm	time	psalm	time	psalm	time
1	0:40	42	1:41	73	2:38	90	1:59	107	4:02
2	1:06	43	0:44	74	2:34	91	1:33	108	1:15
3	0:49	44	2:24	75	1:08	92	1:25	109	3:04
4	0:54	45	1:55	76	1:05	93	0:37	110	0:43
5	1:16	46	1:13	77	2:14	94	2:03	111	0:57
6	0:59	47	0:48	78	7:00	95	1:04	112	1:04
7	1:48	48	1:15	79	1:32	96	1:19	113	0:45
8	0:55	49	2:14	80	1:51	97	1:10	114	0:42
9	2:04	50	2:27	81	1:37	98	0:56	115	1:36
10	1:57	51	2:10	82	0:48	99	0:56	116	1:41
11	0:50	52	1:03	83	1:34	100	0:32	117	0:16
12	0:54	53	0:53	84	1:29	101	0:54	118	2:37
13	0:41	54	0:38	85	1:14	102	2:32	119	15:04
14	0:52	55	2:25	86	1:47	103	2:06	120	0:33
15	0:44	56	1:20	87	0:44	104	3:36	121	0:41
16	1:11	57	1:24	88	1:45	105	3:31	122	0:44
17	1:45	58	1:21	89	4:48	106	4:30	123	0:36
18	5:02	59	1:52					124	0:43
19	1:34	60	1:17					125	0:41
20	0:53	61	0:44					126	0:39
21	1:20	62	1:34					127	0:42
22	3:14	63	1:09					128	0:34
23	0:40	64	1:01					129	0:43
24	1:05	65	1:33					130	0:48
25	1:57	66	1:49					131	0:26
26	1:03	67	0:41					132	1:41
27	1:46	68	4:11					133	0:30
28	1:06	69	3:40					134	0:18
29	1:02	70	0:39					135	1:56
30	1:22	71	2:37					136	1:55
31	2:44	72	2:04					137	1:11
32	1:21							138	0:59
33	1:48							139	2:28
34	1:48							140	1:22
35	3:08							141	1:15
36	1:16							142	0:53
37	3:56							143	1:32
38	2:03							144	1:53
39	1:36							145	2:00
40	2:17							146	1:14
41	1:20							147	1:57
								148	1:22
								149	0:54
								150	0:44
<b>Book 1</b>	1:04:46	<b>Book 2</b>	50:46	<b>Book 3</b>	35:48	<b>Book 4</b>	30:43	<b>Book 5</b>	1:07:40

“Is anyone among you suffering?  
 Let him pray.  
 Is anyone cheerful?  
 Let him sing psalms” (James 5:13).

## Psalm 119:105,109,111-112

Your word *is* a lamp to my feet  
 And a light to my path...  
 I do not forget Your law...  
 Your testimonies I have taken as a heritage forever,  
 For they are the rejoicing of my heart.  
 I have inclined my heart to perform Your statutes  
 Forever, to the very end.

## Psalm 145:1-2

I will extol You, my God, O King;  
 And I will bless Your name forever and ever.  
Every day I will bless You,  
 And I will praise Your name forever and ever.

## Psalm 150

Praise the LORD!

Praise God in His sanctuary;  
 Praise Him in His mighty firmament!  
 Praise Him for His mighty acts;  
 Praise Him according to His excellent greatness!  
 Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet;  
 Praise Him with the lute and harp!  
 Praise Him with the timbrel and dance;  
 Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes!  
 Praise Him with loud cymbals;  
 Praise Him with high sounding cymbals!

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.

Praise the LORD!

# Writings

Total Reading Time: 14:47:19 (h:m:s)

Psalms		Proverbs		Job		Festival Scroll				Ezra-Nehemiah		Chronicles			
book	time	chapter	time	chapter	time	chapter	time	chapter	time	chapter	time	chapter	time	chapter	time
1	1:04:46	1	3:13	1	3:25	<b>Song of Solomon</b>		<b>Ecclesiastes</b>		<b>Ezra</b>		<b>1 Chronicles</b>		<b>2 Chronicles</b>	
2	50:46	2	1:55	2	2:02	1	1:54	1	2:20	1	1:49	1	4:23	1	2:52
3	35:48	3	3:08	3	2:31	2	1:59	2	4:27	2	5:12	2	5:17	2	3:09
4	30:43	4	2:30	4	1:50	3	1:30	3	3:08	3	2:36	3	2:20	3	2:29
5	1:07:40	5	2:14	5	2:25	4	2:12	4	2:23	4	3:43	4	5:06	4	3:00
		6	3:23	6	2:41	5	2:17	5	3:00	5	2:33	5	3:27	5	2:24
		7	2:20	7	2:09	6	1:38	6	1:40	6	3:45	6	6:54	6	7:35
		8	3:33	8	1:55	7	1:36	7	3:39	7	4:05	7	4:48	7	3:56
		9	1:53	9	3:09	8	2:02	8	2:43	8	5:05	8	3:12	8	2:38
		10	3:18	10	2:15			9	3:17	9	3:32	9	5:01	9	4:29
		11	3:21	11	1:48			10	2:21	10	5:24	10	1:57	10	2:47
		12	2:54	12	2:15			11	1:32			11	5:02	11	2:40
		13	2:36	13	2:13			12	2:27			12	4:55	12	2:35
		14	3:29	14	2:27							13	1:53	13	3:27
		15	3:10	15	2:56							14	1:53	14	2:17
		16	3:12	16	2:06							15	3:47	15	2:31
		17	3:06	17	1:31		15:08					16	4:38	16	2:29
		18	2:32	18	1:37	<b>Ruth</b>					37:44	17	4:10	17	2:27
		19	3:15	19	2:42	1	3:22			<b>Nehemiah</b>		18	2:13	18	5:12
		20	3:12	20	2:29	2	3:37			1	2:00	19	3:00	19	1:48
		21	3:18	21	2:45	3	2:35		32:57	2	3:28	20	1:21	20	5:56
		22	2:55	22	2:44	4	3:19	<b>Esther</b>		3	4:54	21	4:33	21	3:08
		23	3:27	23	1:37			1	3:32	4	3:26	22	3:06	22	2:09
		24	3:32	24	2:49			2	4:00	5	3:13	23	3:29	23	3:36
		25	3:17	25	0:29			3	2:47	6	3:00	24	3:05	24	4:28
		26	2:51	26	1:15			4	2:40	7	6:10	25	2:54	25	4:36
		27	3:00	27	2:04			5	2:24	8	3:44	26	3:54	26	3:35
		28	3:16	28	2:26		12:53	6	2:21	9	7:31	27	4:12	27	1:14
		29	2:48	29	2:11	<b>Lamentations</b>		7	1:43	10	3:43	28	4:06	28	4:35
		30	3:55	30	2:53	1	4:49	8	3:06	11	4:14	29	5:22	29	5:46
		31	2:57	31	3:33	2	4:57	9	4:52	12	5:18			30	4:26
				32	1:51	3	4:59	10	0:36	13	4:47			31	3:50
				33	2:45	4	3:27							32	5:33
				34	3:17	5	2:00							33	3:56
				35	1:28									34	5:36
				36	2:42									35	4:20
				37	2:16									36	3:53
				38	4:05										
				39	2:47										
				40	2:11										
				41	3:08										
				42	2:41		20:12		28:01		55:28		1:49:58		2:11:22
<b>Psalms</b>	4:09:43	<b>Proverbs</b>	1:33:30	<b>Job</b>	1:40:23	<b>Festival Scroll</b>				1:49:11	<b>Ezra-Neh.</b>	1:33:12	<b>1 &amp; 2 Chronicles</b>		4:01:20

“Hear instruction and be wise... Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my gates...”

The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One *is* understanding.

For by me your days will be multiplied, and years of life will be added to you” (Proverbs 8:33-34; 9:10-11).

Jesus prayed,  
 “Sanctify them  
 by Your truth.  
 Your word is truth.”  
 (John 17:17)

Jesus lived by the  
 Law of Moses; He  
 kept the seventh-day  
 Sabbath and took  
 part in the reading  
 of the Law and the  
 Prophets on that  
 day — as was the  
 Jewish custom.

## Gospels and Acts

Total Reading Time: 10:25:03 (h:m:s)

Matthew		Mark		Luke		John		Acts	
chapter	time	chapter	time	chapter	time	chapter	time	chapter	time
1	3:07	1	5:07	1	8:49	1	6:11	1	3:49
2	3:31	2	3:49	2	6:09	2	2:52	2	6:16
3	2:21	3	3:45	3	5:09	3	4:43	3	3:53
4	3:22	4	5:06	4	5:25	4	6:19	4	4:52
5	6:26	5	5:06	5	5:08	5	5:48	5	5:51
6	4:49	6	6:37	6	7:01	6	8:39	6	2:04
7	3:38	7	4:31	7	6:55	7	5:42	7	8:06
8	4:15	8	4:41	8	7:50	8	7:47	8	4:56
9	4:56	9	6:40	9	8:32	9	5:03	9	6:16
10	5:33	10	6:52	10	6:05	10	4:46	10	6:40
11	4:02	11	4:18	11	7:52	11	6:54	11	3:48
12	6:35	12	6:23	12	8:36	12	6:19	12	3:41
13	8:05	13	5:05	13	5:09	13	5:13	13	7:39
14	3:55	14	9:00	14	4:30	14	4:37	14	3:36
15	4:46	15	5:17	15	4:14	15	3:49	15	5:13
16	3:54	16	2:42	16	4:30	16	4:44	16	5:03
17	3:50			17	4:48	17	3:47	17	4:58
18	4:55			18	5:19	18	5:31	18	3:51
19	4:25			19	5:29	19	5:55	19	5:30
20	4:15			20	5:41	20	4:21	20	5:05
21	6:30			21	5:02	21	4:14	21	5:42
22	4:59			22	8:25			22	4:19
23	5:39			23	6:30			23	4:51
24	6:08			24	6:05			24	3:35
25	5:38							25	3:51
26	9:38							26	4:36
27	7:48							27	5:29
28	2:27							28	4:40
<b>Matthew</b>	2:19:27	<b>Mark</b>	1:24:59	<b>Luke</b>	2:29:13	<b>John</b>	1:53:14	<b>Acts</b>	2:18:10

**Jewish Practice:** “For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath” (Acts 15:21).

“And after the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent to them, saying, ‘Men *and* brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say on.’ Then Paul stood up, and... said, ‘...the Prophets... are read every Sabbath...’” (Acts 13:15-16,27).

**Jesus’ Custom:** “He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And, as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And... He... opened the book [and read]... ‘*The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me...*’ [Isaiah 61:1]” (Luke 4:16-18).

“Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me’ (Matthew 16:24).

**Peter’s & Paul’s Instructions:** “Christ... suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps” (1 Peter 2:21).

“Now when they... came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews... Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures” (Acts 17:1-2).

Paul kept the Sabbath the way Jesus did. And Paul said, “Be ye followers of me, even as I also *am* of Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1, KJV).

## Was Any of the Law Done Away in Christ?

Let's look again at the words of Jesus:

“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:17-19).

Have heaven and earth passed away? Have the prophecies of the Old Testament *all* been fulfilled? Are all of the things foreshadowed by the “ceremonial laws” and by the animal sacrifices ancient history?

The sacrifice of Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God *did* fulfill what the Passover lambs had long foreshadowed. Jesus' death makes our redemption possible, as prophesied by Isaiah:

“Surely He has borne our griefs  
And carried our sorrows;  
Yet we esteemed Him stricken,  
Smitten by God, and afflicted.  
But He *was* wounded for our transgressions,  
*He was* bruised for our iniquities;  
The chastisement of our peace  
[meaning, *the spanking (that we deserved)  
for our own welfare*] was upon Him  
And by His stripes we are healed.  
All we like sheep have gone astray;  
We have turned, every one, to his own way;  
And the LORD has laid on Him the  
iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:4-6).

Yes, God put the penalties for our sins on Jesus.

But for how many of us has the application of Isaiah's prophecy not yet been completely fulfilled? How many of us still carry our own arthritis, dental cavities, diabetes, cancer...? You name it.

Has this sin-sick world yet been healed?

Jesus performed many signs when He walked the earth as a man. He healed the sick, the lame... the blind. He cleansed lepers. And He

raised the dead, picturing the ultimate removal of the penalty of sin. For “the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23).

But how about us?

“The LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:6). So where is the healing and the resurrection of the dead for us? I still have aches and pains. My mother and father (and even King David, Acts 2:29,34) are still in the grave. Have all of the things prophesied to come as a result of Jesus' sacrifice been fulfilled?

If not, then by Jesus' own words, not one jot or one tittle of the Law has been done away.

The healings Jesus did in the past were just *signs* of far greater miracles that He will do when He returns “with healing in His wings” (Malachi 4:2).

The animal sacrifices *were interrupted* by the destruction of Jerusalem and its temple in 70 AD. But the sacrificial law was *not* done away. Jesus said that the Elijah to come would “restore all things” (Matthew 17:11).

Many things prophesied in the Old Testament have not yet come to pass. And some of what was foreshadowed by the sacrifices is yet to be fulfilled. Ezekiel 40–48 prophesies of a future temple and restoration of the sacrificial system. And the coming Elijah is to turn the hearts of the descendants of Israel back to their fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob... and to Moses — yes, to every jot and every tittle (Malachi 4:4-6).

Not one bit of the Law was done away in Jesus.

**“The law *is* holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.” — Romans 7:12**

“‘Teacher, what is the great commandment in the law?’ Jesus said to him, ‘*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind*’ [Deuteronomy 6:5]. This is *the* first and great commandment. And the second *is* like it: “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself*” [Leviticus 19:18]. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets’ ” (Matthew 22:36-40).

“Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, *from* a good conscience, and *from* sincere faith... the law *is* good...” (1 Timothy 1:5,8).

“And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one tittle of the law to fail” (Luke 16:17).

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away” (Matthew 24:35).

“Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look on the earth beneath. For the heavens will vanish away like smoke, the earth will grow old like a garment, and those who dwell in it will die in like manner; but My salvation will be for ever, and My righteousness will not be abolished” (Isaiah 51:6).

“All Your commandments are righteousness” (Psalms 119:172).

“For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one *point*, he is guilty of all” (James 2:10).

“And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as *it is* at this day. And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us” (Deuteronomy 6:24-25, KJV).

## Enduring Messages: Works That Remain, Though Tried By Fire

“No other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one’s work will become manifest; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is” (1 Corinthians 3:11-13).

### General Epistles

Total Reading Time: 1:04:25 (h:m:s)

James		1 Peter		2 Peter		1 John		2 John		3 John		Jude	
chapter	time	chapter	time	chapter	time	chapter	time	chapter	time	chapter	time	chapter	time
1	3:22	1	3:53	1	3:06	1	1:30	1	1:44	1	1:47	1	4:08
2	3:17	2	3:45	2	3:52	2	4:21						
3	2:30	3	3:29	3	3:08	3	3:26						
4	2:23	4	3:13			4	3:07						
5	3:02	5	2:12			5	3:10						
			16:32		10:06		15:34		1:44		1:47		
<b>James</b>	14:34	<b>1 &amp; 2 Peter</b>		26:38		<b>1, 2 &amp; 3 John</b>			19:05		<b>Jude</b>	4:08	

“Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty, and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does” (James 1:21-25).

“ *All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the LORD endures forever*’ [Isaiah 40:6-8]. Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you. Therefore, laying aside all malice, all guile, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious. Coming to Him *as to* a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God *and* precious... *‘A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense*’ [Isaiah 8:14]. They stumble, being disobedient to the word...

But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (1 Peter 1:24-25; 2:1-4,8-9).

“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, *let him speak* as [according to] the oracles of God [the Scriptures] ... that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever” (1 Peter 4:10-11).

“We did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty... We also have the prophetic word made more sure, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts... Beloved, I now write to you... that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Savior... Beware lest you... fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the

grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:16,19; 3:1-2,17-18).

“This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all” (1 John 1:5).

“And now I plead with you... not as though I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we have had from the beginning: that we love one another. This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it... Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son” (2 John 1:5-6,9).

“I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth *that is* in you, just as you walk in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth” (3 John 1:3-4).

“Your word [God’s Word] is truth” (John 17:17).

“But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe” (Jude 1:5).



# Epistles of Paul

Total Reading Time: 5:17:25 (h:m:s)

“Our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you... some things hard to understand, which those who are untaught and unstable twist to their own destruction, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures... Beware lest you also fall... being led away with the error of the wicked” (2 Peter 3:15-17).

Romans		1 Corinthians		2 Corinthians		Galatians		Ephesians		Philippians		Colossians	
chapter	time	chapter	time	chapter	time	chapter	time	chapter	time	chapter	time	chapter	time
1	4:35	1	4:07	1	3:39	1	2:41	1	2:49	1	3:52	1	3:44
2	4:05	2	2:22	2	2:24	2	3:17	2	2:57	2	3:41	2	3:07
3	3:42	3	3:07	3	2:28	3	4:05	3	2:21	3	3:04	3	3:02
4	3:20	4	3:18	4	2:40	4	3:44	4	3:49	4	3:19	4	2:26
5	3:11	5	1:59	5	3:06	5	3:05	5	3:41				
6	3:05	6	3:10	6	2:36	6	2:15	6	3:06				
7	3:43	7	5:56	7	2:57								
8	5:39	8	1:55	8	3:17								
9	4:29	9	4:08	9	2:09								
10	2:56	10	4:21	10	2:36								
11	5:11	11	4:30	11	4:52								
12	3:02	12	4:12	12	3:43								
13	2:27	13	2:30	13	2:06								
14	3:25	14	5:37										
15	4:15	15	7:28										
16	3:17	16	2:50										
	1:00:22		1:01:30		38:33		19:07		18:43		13:56		12:19

1 Thessalonians		2 Thessalonians		Hebrews		1 Timothy		2 Timothy		Titus		Philemon	
1	1:28	1	1:39	1	2:00	1	2:51	1	2:35	1	2:08	1	2:39
2	2:48	2	2:18	2	2:46	2	1:37	2	3:16	2	1:48		
3	1:36	3	2:07	3	2:09	3	2:01	3	2:16	3	2:04		
4	2:19			4	2:20	4	2:05	4	2:54				
5	2:48			5	1:52	5	3:07						
				6	2:24	6	3:25						
				7	3:36								
				8	1:59								
				9	3:54								
				10	4:47								
				11	6:04								
				12	4:06								
				13	3:09								
	10:59		6:04		41:06		15:06		11:01		6:00		2:39

“Continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing... that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:14-17).

“Till I come, give thyself to reading [to the public reading of scripture, RSV], to exhortation, to teaching” (1 Timothy 4:13, Dby).

“I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read to all the holy brethren” (1 Thessalonians 5:27).

“Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans...” (Colossians 4:16).

“Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables (2 Timothy 4:2-4).



Revelation	
chapter	time
1	3:45
2	4:50
3	3:44
4	2:00
5	2:26
6	2:58
7	2:49
8	2:19
9	3:17
10	2:00
11	3:20
12	2:51
13	3:00
14	3:32
15	1:27
16	3:10
17	3:12
18	4:45
19	3:43
20	2:39
21	4:37
22	3:44
	1:10:08

## The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Which God gave Him to show His servants things which must shortly take place.

“Blessed is he who reads aloud the words of the prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written therein; for the time is near” (Revelation 1:3, RSV).

“ ‘And, behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.’ Blessed *are* those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside *are* dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. ‘I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of

David, the Bright and Morning Star.’ And the Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’. And let him who thirsts come. And whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely. For I testify to every one who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book” (Revelation 22:12-19).

# The English Bible — 72 Hours of Light

## The Light of Six Days (6 x 12 = 72)

Section	Book #	Section or Book	Reading Time	Section	Book #	Section or Book	Reading Time	Section	Book #	Section or Book	Reading Time
1		<b>Law</b>	13:29:39	3		<b>Writings</b>	14:47:19	4		<b>Gospels and Acts</b>	10:25:03
	1	Genesis	3:23:01						23	Matthew	2:19:27
	2	Exodus	2:53:27			<u>150 Psalms</u>	4:09:43		24	Mark	1:24:59
	3	Leviticus	2:04:09						25	Luke	2:29:13
	4	Numbers	2:44:09		13	Pslam Book 1	1:04:46		26	John	1:53:14
	5	Deuteronomy	2:24:53		14	Psalm Book 2	50:46		27	Acts	2:18:10
					15	Psalm Book 3	35:48				
2		<b>Prophets</b>	25:35:21		16	Psalm Book 4	30:43	5		<b>General Epistles</b>	1:04:25
		<u>Former Prophets</u>	11:06:23		17	Psalm Book 5	1:07:40		28	James	14:34
	6	Joshua-Judges	3:07:12		18	Proverbs	1:33:30		29	1 Peter	16:32
		Joshua	1:34:53		19	Job	1:40:23		30	2 Peter	10:06
		Judges	1:32:19						31	1 John	15:34
	7	Samuel-Kings	7:59:11						32	2 John	1:44
		1 Samuel	2:08:42		20	Festival Scroll	1:49:11		33	3 John	1:47
		2 Samuel	1:45:08			Song of Solomon	15:08	6		<b>Epistles of Paul</b>	5:17:25
		1 Kings	2:06:27			Ruth	12:53		35	Romans	1:00:22
		2 Kings	1:58:54			Lamentations	20:12		36	1 Corinthians	1:01:30
						Ecclesiastes	32:57		37	2 Corinthians	38:33
		<u>Latter Prophets</u>	14:28:58			Esther	28:01		38	Galatians	19:07
	8	Isaiah	3:33:02						39	Ephesians	18:43
	9	Jeremiah	3:47:29						40	Philippians	13:56
	10	Ezekiel	3:22:12		21	Ezra-Nehemiah	1:33:12		41	Colossians	12:19
	11	Daniel	1:01:54			Ezra	37:44		42	1 Thessalonians	10:59
	12	The Twelve	2:44:21			Nehemiah	55:28		43	2 Thessalonians	6:04
		Hosea 28:22	Nahum 7:26						44	Hebrews	41:06
		Joel 11:44	Habakkuk 8:37						45	1 Timothy	15:06
		Amos 22:29	Zephaniah 9:15		22	Chronicles	4:01:20		46	2 Timothy	11:01
		Obadiah 3:33	Haggai 5:43			1 Chronicles	1:49:58		47	Titus	6:00
		Jonah 6:51	Zechariah 33:19			2 Chronicles	2:11:22		48	Philemon	2:39
		Micah 17:07	Malachi 9:55								
		<b>Law and Prophets</b>	39:05:00					7	49	<b>Revelation</b>	1:10:08
		<b>Old Testament</b>					53:52:19			<b>New Testament</b>	17:57:01
		Reading time for the entire Bible: <b>Genesis through Revelation</b> (h:m:s)									71:49:20

## The Light of Seven Days

The Bible is the spiritual Light which God gave to the world during the first six millennial days of mankind's existence on earth. It takes seventy-two hours — the length of six twelve-hour days — to read aloud the English King James version.

English has been the language of the covenant people for many centuries. It is now the dominant language of international commerce and may soon become the *only* language on earth. Prophecy tells us that in the millennial rest God will purge the speech of the human race. He will *remove* the confusion of the diversity of tongues that He placed upon mankind at the tower of Babel — so that all will be able to worship Him together — in English or Hebrew or some brand new language:

“For then I will restore to the peoples a pure [choice/chosen] language, that they all may call on the name of the LORD, to serve Him with one accord” (Zephaniah 3:9; compare, Genesis 11:1,6-7).

Jesus is the Word of God (John 1:1) and the Sun of Righteousness (Malachi 4:2). In the age to come Jesus' Light — the *spiritual* Light of Day — will be as the light of seven days, as it is written:

“Moreover the light of the moon [the instruction emanating from Jerusalem<sup>3</sup>] will be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun [the Light given by the Word of God, Jesus Christ] will be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the LORD binds up the bruise of His people and heals the stroke of their wound” (Isaiah 30:26).

So perhaps there will be another twelve hours worth of instruction added to the Bible in the age to come. There could be additions to the book of Acts — to tell the story of the Church of God in the last two thousand years — and to record the events surrounding the return of Christ, the fulfillment of end-time prophecies and the restoration of all things. And there might also be some new psalms. For there will be *much* to be thankful for and great rejoicing in the wonderful world of tomorrow — in God's millennial rest.

God speed that dazzlingly glorious Day!

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<sup>3</sup> How the sun and moon (and all the other aspects of creation) are used metaphorically in Scripture is explored in [Part 2](#) of this series: *Seven Millennial Days*.

# Understanding Times and Seasons

This seven-part series is available free of charge at [cgsf.org](http://cgsf.org):

Part 1

The Biblical Evidence about  
**God's Many Clocks**

Units of  
time in Scripture

Part 2

**Seven  
Millennial Days**

The prophetic implications of  
each day of creation week

Part 3

**The Bible Timeline**  
*Declaring the End from the Beginning*

7000 years  
foreshadowed by creation

Part 4

Dating the Human Life of  
**Jesus Christ**

Can we really *know*  
when Jesus lived?

Part 5

**WHEN  
Will Messiah Come?**

There are details hidden in  
Scripture for the wise to understand

You are  
here →

Part 6

Time to Read  
**The Book of the LORD!**

Is the Bible just a  
reference work?  
*Or is it a good book to read?*

Part 7

Heaven's  
**Holy Times**

Sabbaths, New Moons,  
Holy Days ...  
*Does it matter which days we keep?*