

DAILY BIBLE READINGS 2024

A CHRONOLOGICAL READING OF THE WHOLE BIBLE

APRIL

SAMUEL, THE REIGN OF SAUL, THE REIGN OF DAVID, DAVID'S PSALMS

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	01 *1 Samuel 1-2 <i>Kids: 1 Samuel 1, 2:18-21</i>	02 1 Samuel 3-7 <i>Kids: 1 Samuel 3, 7:3-17</i>	03 1 Samuel 8-10 <i>Kids: 1 Samuel 8:1 to 9:10</i>	04 1 Samuel 11:1 to 13:22 <i>Kids: 1 Samuel 9:11 to 10:27</i>	05 1 Samuel 13:23 to 15:35 <i>Kids: 1 Samuel 16:1 to 17:11</i>	06 1 Samuel 16-17 <i>Kids: 1 Samuel 17:12-58</i>
07 1 Samuel 18-20 <i>Kids: Psalm 34, 1 Samuel 21</i>	08 Psalm 59, 1 Samuel 21-22, Psalms 34, 52 <i>Kids: Psalms 57, 142</i>	09 Psalms 56-57, 142 1 Samuel 23-24 <i>Kids: 1 Samuel 24</i>	10 Psalms 54, 63 1 Samuel 25-26 <i>Kids: 1 Samuel 25</i>	11 1 Samuel 27-31† <i>Kids: 1 Samuel 26, Psalm 2</i>	12 1 Chronicles 10-12 <i>Kids: Psalms 4, 54, 63</i>	13 *2 Samuel 1-3 <i>Kids: 1 Samuel 28:3-25</i>
14 2 Samuel 4-7 <i>Kids: 1 Chronicles 11:1-25</i>	15 1 Chronicles 13-16 <i>Kids: 1 Chronicles 13-14</i>	16 1 Chronicles 17 2 Samuel 8-9 Psalms 2, 4 <i>Kids: 1 Chronicles 15</i>	17 Psalms 5-11 <i>Kids: Psalms 8, 15-16</i>	18 Psalms 12-17, 19-21 <i>Kids: Psalms 19-20, 23-24</i>	19 Psalms 22-27 <i>Kids: Psalms 25, 29</i>	20 Psalms 28-29, 31-32, 35-36 <i>Kids: Psalms 32, 40</i>
21 Psalms 38-41, 53, 55 <i>Kids: Psalms 41, 61-62</i>	22 Psalms 58, 61-62, 64-65, 68 <i>Kids: Psalms 65, 70</i>	23 Psalms 69-70, 86, 95, 101, 103, 108 <i>Kids: Psalms 86, 95, 103</i>	24 Psalms 109-110, 122, 124, 131, 133, 138-139 <i>Kids: Psalms 109-110</i>	25 Psalms 140-141, 143-145 <i>Kids: Psalms 122, 1244, 131, 133, 138</i>	26 2 Samuel 10 1 Chronicles 18-19 Psalm 60 <i>Kids: Psalms 139, 143</i>	27 2 Samuel 11-12 Psalm 51 <i>Kids: Psalms 144-145</i>
28 2 Samuel 13-14 <i>Kids: 1 Chronicles 18-19</i>	29 2 Samuel 15:1 to 17:23 Psalm 3 <i>Kids: Psalms 3, 51, 60</i>	30 2 Samuel 17:24 to 19:43 <i>Kids: 2 Samuel 23:1-23</i>				

* beginning a new book

† completed this book—Congratulations!

Can't read the whole Bible this year? Read one new book of the Bible!

This month:

- 1 Samuel — April 1-11, about 2 hours
- Psalms — February + April 8-29 + May-June + August-October, about 5½ hours
- 1 Chronicles — January/March + April 12-16 & 26 + May/September, about 2 hours
- 2 Samuel — April 13-16 & 26-30 + May, about 1½ hours

NOTES ON THIS MONTH'S READINGS...

WEEK 13 (March 26 to April 1) — THE LATER JUDGES

Date: perhaps roughly 1177 to roughly 1090 BC

The Story: God continues to send judges to rescue Israel from its enemies. But even these judges are not always godly people. In fact, Israel descends into greater and greater disorder, epitomized by the final two stories in Judges (chapters 17-21), the last of which is one of the most horrific stories in the Bible. But there is hope! Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz in the book of Ruth stand as exemplars of godly people in Israel. And Samuel himself (in 1 Samuel), a future prophet and leader of God's people, is born from godly parents. So this period in Israel's history reveals two starkly contrasting ways of life existing in Israel simultaneously: unfaithfulness and shocking sin in one, and refreshing godliness and courageous faithfulness in the other. Most of all, the God who blessed Abraham and loves Israel continues to demonstrate both sternness and patience toward his people.

WEEK 14 (April 2-8) — SAMUEL, SAUL, AND DAVID

Date: roughly 1090-1011 BC

The Story: God works through the prophet Samuel to bless Israel, but Israel desires a king to lead them. With some reservation, God selects a man to be Israel's first legitimate king: Saul, who is reluctant at first, but later takes such pride in his position that he turns away from God as his own King. God therefore rejects Saul and chooses someone else to be king: a young man, David. David is faithful to God, and God immediately begins to show his power in David's life. He gives David victory over the giant Goliath, then over Israel's enemies repeatedly. Saul becomes afraid of David's rise in popularity and tries to kill him; David has to flee for his life. Some of David's psalms date from this period in his life; in them we hear him express his dependence on God and his desperate need for God's help.

WEEK 15 (April 9-15) — DAVID BECOMES KING

Date: from between roughly 1020 and 1011 BC to sometime after about 1003 BC

The Story: God, as in the past, again provides strong, godly leadership for Israel. As unfaithful Saul's leadership gradually fails, God raises up David, who grows increasingly powerful in spite of Saul's opposition. David eventually becomes king—but only of Judah, while the rest of Israel remains with Saul's surviving son. Soon, though, Israel's loyalty to Saul's family evaporates, and David accepts the throne over all Israel. As he rules faithfully, the Lord grants him a remarkable promise: the throne of Israel will belong to his family forever. This week's readings continue from 1 Samuel into 2 Samuel, touch on more of David's psalms, and bring us into the storyline of 1 Chronicles, which repeats some of 1 & 2 Samuel and adds to the story of David.

WEEK 16 (April 16-22) — PSALMS OF DAVID

Date: from the period 1020-970 BC

The Story: God has been the authority and power behind David's rise to the throne of Israel. This week we read many of David's undatable psalms and hear him acknowledge God as his own King (Psalm 5), cry out to him for help (Psalm 68), express trust in him (Psalm 23), and praise him as the God above all other gods (Psalm 95). In these psalms we glimpse David's deep devotion to God in every circumstance. And in these psalms God, through David, gives his people words with which to express to him their worship, hope, fear, prayers, lament, and joy. He even gives his people prophecy; some of David's psalms, most notably Psalm 22, come to be fulfilled in the life and suffering of Jesus.

WEEK 17 (April 23-29) — MIDDLE OF DAVID'S REIGN

Date: from the period 1020-970 BC (the undatable psalms of David) • probably sometime between roughly 1003 and 975 BC (other texts)

The Story: God is Israel's true and highest King; in Israel's theology, the authority of its human king comes from God and depends on God's favor. David, praising God in psalms and ruling Israel with God's blessing, forgets this reality at one crucial moment: he sins against God by committing adultery and then having the husband of the woman he had taken killed. David's King, God, confronts him about his sin, and David (unlike Saul before him) repents—and God forgives him. But harm has still been done; David's sons Amnon and Absalom learn that kings may do whatever they wish, and with no reverence for God at all, they abuse their power, bringing one tragedy after another upon themselves, David, and the nation. David, though, continues to rely on God, though he is clearly wounded by the sin of himself and his sons.

WEEK 18 (April 30 to May 6) — DAVID'S LATER YEARS

Date: mostly roughly 984-970 BC (some portions come from any time in David's reign, about 1010-970 BC) • the psalms of the Sons of Korah probably come from about 970 BC or later

The Story: God never leaves David, even through another rebellion, another costly sin committed by David, and an attempted coup. And David, though flawed, continues to serve and praise God. He prepares for the construction of the temple and for Israel's worship there. He elevates Solomon to the throne as his co-regent. God, for his part, continues to correct David as needed and to bless all the good David does.