

# THE OLD TESTAMENT

## Structural Chapter Reading Chart

Seminary Selected Readings, 2015

<b>MOSES</b> ( <i>Pearl of Great Price</i> )	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
<b>THE LAW</b> ( <i>or, Torah, Pentateuch, books of Moses</i> )	
<b>GENESIS</b>	
Primeval history	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
<b>ABRAHAM</b> ( <i>Pearl of Great Price</i> )	1 2 3 4 5
Abraham and Isaac	c. 1800BC 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24
Jacob	25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36
Joseph	37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50
<b>EXODUS</b>	c. 1400BC
1 2	
Plagues and passover	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13
Traveling to Sinai	14 15 16 17 18
Covenant at Sinai	19 20 21 22 23 24
Tabernacle and priests	25 26 27 28 29 30 31
Golden calf rebellion	32 33 34
Tabernacle furnishings	35 36 37 38 39 40
<b>LEVITICUS</b>	
Types of offerings	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Ceremonial cleanness	11 12 13 14 15
Various laws	16 17 18 19 20 21 22
Holy days and times; Promises	23 24 25 26 27
<b>NUMBERS</b>	
Order and laws	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
Rebellion at Canaan	10 11 12 13 14
Levite authority	15 16 17 18 19
Fighting Edom and Moab	20 21 22 23 24 25
Laws and feasts	26 27 28 29 30
Tribal territories	31 32 33 34 35 36
<b>DEUTERONOMY</b>	
<b>Historical review</b>	1 2 3 4
<b>Law review</b>	5 6 7 8 9 10 11
Worship laws	12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19
Societal laws	20 21 22 23 24 25 26
<b>Promised blessings and curses</b>	27 28 29 30
Leadership changes	31 32 33 34
<b>HISTORY</b>	
<b>JOSHUA</b>	c. 1300BC
Conquest of Canaan	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
Territorial divisions	13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24
<b>JUDGES</b>	
1 2	
<b>Cycles of captivity and deliverance</b>	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
Samson	13 14 15 16
<b>Wickedness</b>	17 18 19 20 21

<b>RUTH</b>	1 2 3 4
<b>1 SAMUEL</b>	
Samuel, the last judge	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
<b>Reign of Saul</b>	9 10 11 12 13 14 15
David in Saul's court	16 17 18 19 20
David the outlaw	21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
<b>2 SAMUEL—Reign of David</b>	c. 1000BC
1 2 3 4	
Reign over united Israel	5 6 7 8 9 10
David's sin, Absalom's rebellion	11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19
Final years	20 21 22 23 24
<b>1 AND 2 KINGS*</b>	
1	
<b>United Israel under Solomon</b>	c. 970BC
<b>Divided kingdoms</b>	c. 930BC
House of Jeroboam: Calf worship	12 13 14 15
House of Omri: Elijah versus Baal	16 17 18 19 20 21 22 1 2
House of Omri: Elisha versus Syria	3 4 5 6 7 8
House of Jehu: Elisha versus Syria	9 10 11 12 13 14
Assyrian crisis	15 16 17
<b>Southern kingdom alone</b>	c. 720BC
Babylonian crisis	18 19 20 21 22 23
24 25	
<b>1 CHRONICLES</b>	
Genealogies	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
<b>Reign of David</b>	c. 1000BC
10	
Reign over united Israel	11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21
Preparing for the temple	22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29
<b>2 CHRONICLES</b>	
<b>United Israel under Solomon</b>	c. 970BC
<b>Divided kingdoms</b>	c. 930BC
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	
Time of the house of Jeroboam	10 11 12 13 14 15 16
Time of the house of Omri	17 18 19 20 21
Time of the house of Jehu	22 23 24 25 26
Assyrian crisis	27 28 29 30 31 32
<b>Southern kingdom alone</b>	c. 720BC
33 34 35 36	
<b>EZRA</b>	c. 540BC
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
<b>NEHEMIAH</b>	c. 445BC
Dedicating the walls	1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 10 11 12 13	
<b>ESTHER</b>	c. 400BC
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
<b>WISDOM</b> ( <i>or, poetry</i> )	
<b>JOB</b>	
1 2 3	
First cycle of speeches	4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14
Second cycle of speeches	15 16 17 18 19 20 21
Third cycle of speeches	22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
Elihu's response	32 33 34 35 36 37
<b>The Lord's response</b>	38 39 40 41 42

\*The books of 1 and 2 Kings were originally one book that was later divided. The same is true of 1 and 2 Chronicles, and 1 and 2 Samuel.

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

<b>PROVERBS</b>	
Lady Wisdom	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
<b>Proverbs of Solomon</b>	10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21
Words of the wise	22 23 24
Hezekiah's collection	25 26 27 28 29
Sayings of Agur and Lemuel	30 31
<b>ECCLESIASTES</b>	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
<b>SONG OF SOLOMON</b>	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

**THE PROPHETS**  
**Major prophets**

<b>ISAIAH</b> c. 740 BC	1
<b>Judgment</b>	
To Judah and Jerusalem	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
Burdens of foreign nations	13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23
Judgment and promise	24 25 26 27
Woes	28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35
Historical interlude	36 37 38 39
<b>Comfort</b>	
Deliverance and restoration of Israel	40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48
The suffering servant	49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57
Future peace	58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66
<b>JEREMIAH</b> c. 620 BC	1
Wickedness of the Jews	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
Coming judgments on the Jews	13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25
Coming restoration of the Jews	26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35
Historical interlude	36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45
Judgments against foreign nations	46 47 48 49 50 51 52
<b>LAMENTATIONS</b> c. 586 BC	1 2 3 4 5

<b>EZEKIEL</b> c. 590 BC	
<b>Judgments against Israel</b>	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
Departing the temple	8 9 10 11 12
Allegories and parables	13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24
<b>Judgments against foreign nations</b>	25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32
<b>Comfort for Israel</b>	33 34 35 36 37 38 39
Jerusalem and the temple restored	40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48
<b>DANIEL</b> c. 600 BC	
History	1 2 3 4 5 6
Prophecies	7 8 9 10 11 12
<b>Minor prophets</b>	
<b>HOSEA</b>	1 2 3
Judgments and prophecies	4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14
<b>JOEL</b>	1 2 3
<b>AMOS</b>	1 2
Judgments and prophecies	3 4 5 6 7 8 9
<b>OBADIAH</b>	1
<b>JONAH</b>	1 2 3 4
<b>MICAH</b>	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
<b>NAHUM</b>	1 2 3
<b>HABBAKUK</b>	1 2 3
<b>ZEPHANIAH</b>	1 2 3
<b>HAGGAI</b> c. 520 BC	1 2
<b>ZECHARIAH</b> c. 520 BC	
Visions	1 2 3 4 5 6
Messages and prophecies	7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14
<b>MALACHI</b> c. 400 BC	1 2 3 4

The Old Testament has 929 chapters, so:

If you read ...	Then you'll finish the book in about ...
8 chapters/day	= 4 months
4 chapters/day	= 8 months
3 chapters/day	= 10 months
2½ chapters/day	= 1 year
1 chapter/day	= 2½ years

Years are very rough estimates based on generally accepted scholarship. Outlines are based in part on outlines from bible.org, biblica.com, and biblestudytools.com. They are related to the Structured Edition of the standard works, which you can download for free at NathanRichardson.com.