

# THE OLD TESTAMENT

## Structural Chapter Reading Chart

### THE LAW (or, Torah, Pentateuch, books of Moses)

#### GENESIS

Primeval history	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11			
Abraham and Isaac	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

#### EXODUS

Plagues and passover	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Traveling to Sinai	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
Covenant at Sinai	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						
Tabernacle and priests	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40				
Golden calf rebellion	32	33	34										
Tabernacle furnishings	35	36	37	38	39	40							

#### LEVITICUS

Types of offerings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Ceremonial cleanness	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Various laws	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32		
Holy days and times; Promises	23	24	25	26	27							

#### NUMBERS

Order and laws	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
Rebellion at Canaan	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
Levite authority	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Fighting Edom and Moab	31	32	33	34	35	36					
Laws and feasts	26	27	28	29	30						
Tribal territories	31	32	33	34	35	36					

#### DEUTERONOMY

##### Historical review

##### Law review

Worship laws	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11				
Societal laws	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

##### Promised blessings and curses

Leadership changes	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
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### HISTORY

#### JOSHUA

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

#### JUDGES

##### Cycles of captivity and deliverance

Samson	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wickedness	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21			

### RUTH

#### 1 SAMUEL

Samuel, the last judge	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8			
Reign of Saul	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

#### 2 SAMUEL—Reign of David

c. 1000BC

Reign over united Israel	1	2	3	4	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					

#### 1 AND 2 KINGS\*

##### United Israel under Solomon

c. 970BC

##### Divided kingdoms

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						
Southern kingdom alone	18	19	20	21	22	23			
Babylonian crisis	24	25							

#### 1 CHRONICLES

##### Genealogies

##### Reign of David

c. 1000BC

Reign over united Israel	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9											
Preparing for the temple	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29

#### 2 CHRONICLES

##### United Israel under Solomon

c. 970BC

##### Divided kingdoms

c. 930BC

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	
Southern kingdom alone	33	34	35	36			

#### EZRA

c. 540BC

#### NEHEMIAH

c. 445BC

Dedicating the walls	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			

#### ESTHER

c. 400BC

### WISDOM (or, poetry)

#### JOB

First cycle of speeches	1	2	3	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								
The Lord's response	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.