

THE OLD TESTAMENT

StoryGuide Scriptures 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

c. 1800BC

EXODUS

Out of Egypt by signs and wonders	1	2											
Traveling to Mount Sinai	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Covenant at Mount Sinai	16	17	18										
Planning God's tabernacle	19	20	21	22	23	24							
Rebellion and reconciliation	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						
Making God's tabernacle	32	33	34										
	35	36	37	38	39	40							

c. 1400BC

LEVITICUS

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

NUMBERS

At Sinai: Ordering the tribes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8				
From Sinai to Kadesh: Prophecy	9	10	11	12								
Rebellions at the edge of Canaan	13	14	15	16	17	18	19					
Enemy nations; Laws and offerings	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Tribal land divisions	32	33	34	35	36							

DEUTERONOMY

Historical review

Law review

Worship laws	1	2	3	4				
Societal laws	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
	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

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

c. 1300BC

JUDGES

Cycles of captivity and deliverance

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

13 14 15 16

RUTH

1	2	3	4
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1 SAMUEL[†]

Samuel, the last judge

1	2	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	1

Reign of Saul

David in Saul's court

David the outlaw

2 SAMUEL—Reign of David

c. 1000BC

Reign over unified Israel

David's sin and consequences

An end of conflicts

2	3	4								
5	6	7	8	9						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24							

1 AND 2 KINGS[†]

Unified Israel under Solomon

c. 970BC

Divided kingdoms

c. 930BC

House of Jeroboam: Calf worship

House of Omri: Elijah vs Baal

House of Jehu: Elisha vs Calf

Assyrian crisis

Lone kingdom of Judah

c. 721BC

Babylonian crisis

1 CHRONICLES[†]

Genealogies

Reign of David

c. 1000BC

Reign over unified Israel

Preparing for the temple

1	2	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			

2 CHRONICLES

Unified Israel under Solomon

c. 970BC

Divided kingdoms

c. 930BC

Time of the house of Jeroboam

Time of the house of Omri

Time of the house of Jehu

Assyrian crisis

Lone kingdom of Judah

c. 721BC

EZRA

c. 540BC

NEHEMIAH

c. 445BC

Dedicating the walls

ESTHER

c. 400BC

WISDOM (or, poetry)

JOB

First cycle of speeches

Second cycle of speeches

Third cycle of speeches

Elihu's response

The Lord's response

1	2	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	42						

Return

[†]The books of 1 and 2 Samuel were originally one book that was later divided. The same is true of 1 and 2 Kings, as well as 1 and 2 Chronicles.

PSALMS	1 2
Book 1: David the outlaw	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
Book 2: Reign of David	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
Book 3: Divided kingdoms	73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89
Book 4: Babylonian captivity	90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106
Book 5: The return	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

PROVERBS	
Lady Wisdom	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
Proverbs of Solomon	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
Words of Agur and Lemuel	30 31
ECCLESIASTES	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
SONG OF SOLOMON	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

THE PROPHETS

Major prophets

ISAIAH c. 740 BC	1
Judgment	
Sins of Judah and Jerusalem	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
Judgments against 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
Comfort	
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
JEREMIAH c. 620 BC	1
Sins of the Jews	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
Judgments against the Jews	13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25
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
LAMENTATIONS c. 586 BC	1 2 3 4 5

Assyrian crisis

Babylonian crisis

EZEKIEL c. 590 BC	
Judgments against Israel	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
Judgments against foreign nations	25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32
Comfort for Israel	33 34 35 36 37 38 39
Restoration of temple and Jerusalem	40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48
DANIEL c. 600 BC	
History	1 2 3 4 5 6
Prophecies	7 8 9 10 11 12
Minor prophets	
HOSEA	1 2 3
Judgments and prophecies	4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14
JOEL*	1 2 3
AMOS	1 2
Judgments and prophecies	3 4 5 6 7 8 9
OBADIAH*	1
JONAH	1 2 3 4
MICAH	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
NAHUM	1 2 3
HABBAKUK	1 2 3
ZEPHANIAH	1 2 3
HAGGAI c. 520 BC	1 2
ZECHARIAH c. 520 BC	
Visions	1 2 3 4 5 6
Messages and prophecies	7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14
MALACHI c. 400 BC	1 2 3 4

Assyrian crisis

Babylonian crisis

Return

*Joel and Obadiah are probably the least datable books. Brief, they contain very few details that allow readers to place them in a specific historical setting with any degree of certainty.

Prophetic book titles in colored bars indicate the time period they are set in the historical books. For example, the prophetic books of Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel (purple titles) are set during the Babylonian crisis of 2 Kings 24–25 / 2 Chronicles 26 (purple chapter number boxes).

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 StoryGuide edition of the standard works, which you can download for free at NathanRichardson.com/storyguide.