

The “Ten Lists” Bible Reading Program

Devised by Prof. Grant Horner, The Master’s College

(Grant is personal friend, and a Professor of English Literature, with a special expertise in the writings of John Milton. He also teaches courses on current media and art, and is an avid rock climber. He recently published Meaning at the Movies. He is a popular teacher and preacher, speaking at Bible conferences, retreats, and in various churches, and has served as an elder at Faith Community Church, Santa Clarita, CA)

To get started--

Each day you will read one chapter from each list, in order. Use ten bookmarks or sticky notes with the individual lists on them to keep track of your locations. On day one, you read Matthew 1, Genesis 1, Romans 1, and so forth. On day 2, read Matthew 2, Genesis 2, etc. On day 29, you will have just finished Matthew, so go to Mark 1 on the Gospel list; you’ll also be almost to the end of I Corinthians, the end of Proverbs, you’ll be reading Psalm 29 and Genesis 29, and so forth. When you reach the last chapter of the last book in a list – start over again. Rotate all the way through the Scriptures constantly. Because the lists have varying lengths, the readings begin interweaving in constantly changing ways. You will NEVER read the same set of ten chapters together! Every year you’ll read through all the Gospels three times, the Pentateuch twice, Paul’s letters 4-5 times each, the OT wisdom literature *six times*, all the Psalms at least twice, all the Proverbs as well as Acts a *dozen times*, and all the way through the OT History and prophetic books about 1 ½ times. After you’ve been through any particular book once or twice, *your speed usually doubles* because you’re familiar with it and can move quickly and confidently because you are no longer merely decoding the text but thinking it through in the context of all of the scripture!

List 1 (117 days) Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

List 2 (187 days) Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

List 3 (78 days) Romans, I&II Cor, Gal, Eph, Phil, Col, Hebrews

List 4 (65 days) I&II Thess, I&II Tim, Titus, Philemon, James, I&II Peter, I,II&III John, Jude, Revelation

List 5 (62 days) Job, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon

List 6 (150 days) Psalms

List 7 (31 days) Proverbs

List 8 (249 days) Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I&II Samuel, I&II Kings, I&II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

List 9 (250 days) Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

List 10 (28 days) Acts

Notes:

- Read one chapter from each list each day, in one sitting or several. At the end of a book, go to the next book. At the end of the list – start again.
- Reading quickly (though not “speedreading”) in order to get overall sense. Read as fast as you comfortably can with moderate retention. You’re not studying deeply, memorizing or preparing a sermon.
- GET THROUGH THE TEXT
- Most people decrease their time spent *and* increase their retention after just two-three weeks!
- Don’t look up every little thing you don’t get – real understanding will come through contexting by reading a LOT of scripture *over time*
- If you miss a day or two – ok, get over it, then keep going. Don’t cover yourself in sackcloth and ashes and quit!
- Use 10 bookmarks/post-it notes with lists on them