

Why the Chronological Bible?

The people at *Tyndale Publishers* have put together a fantastic *One Year Chronological Bible* in the *New Living Translation* (2000). But, why would anyone want to read the Bible chronologically? Why read it in a year, and what is unique about the *New Living Translation*?

While there are numerous read-in-a-year plans to choose from, the *Chronological Bible*, in my opinion, is the way to go. You are not trying to read the books of the Bible in canonical order (which is how most Bibles are organized), and you do not read a little of the Old Testament and a little of the New Testament each day, which can be confusing. Consider the advantages of reading the *One Year Chronological Bible*.

First, you read the Bible in the order that it was written. Hey, that makes sense to me! You don't read it in sections but as a story. Simple enough, don't you think?

Second, in the canonical order, you read the prophetic books long after you read the time in which the prophets lived. With the *One Year Chronological Bible*, you read the prophetic books in the historical period of their time.

Third, rather than read *Psalms* as a separate book from its authors, you will read the songs that the author wrote when he lived. For example, many of David's

psalms are intertwined with the story of his life. After his affair with Bathsheba, you immediately read *Psalms 51*, in which he expressed his guilt and need for forgiveness.

Fourth, the Gospels — *Matthew*, *Mark*, *Luke*, and *John* — rather than being separated, are combined, and the combination makes for a smooth reading of the life and teaching of Jesus. Thus, you don't read the Gospel four times, only once.

Fifth, the letters of Paul are mixed with the history of *Acts*, and they fall during the time when he would have written them. They are not disjointed books, but rather they are integrated with Paul's life.

Sixth, the *New Living Translation* (NLT) is easy to read, which helps for quick understanding of difficult texts and requires little time trudging through difficult words.

Finally, reading the Bible in a year allows you to get a quick fly-over of the book without overwhelming you day to day.

Though committing to anything for a year is a challenge in itself, the reward is worth the time and effort! So what are you waiting for? Open your *One Year Chronological Bible* and *Study Guide* and start enjoying an exciting journey through the Bible.

