

While there are numerous Bible reading plans available, in my opinion reading the Bible verse by verse chronologically is the way to go. Why?

First, you will read the Bible in the order that it was written. You don't read it in sections but as one story. The books of the Bible in our modern translations are arranged by type, not time. Thus, we find the books of the law in one section, the books of history, poetry, prophecy and so on. Arranging the books of the Bible by type is orderly and helpful, but it can also be confusing when read from start to finish.

Second, when reading the Bible by sections (as in today's Bibles), you will read the prophetic books long after you read the time in which the prophets lived. With the chronological Bible, you will read the books of prophecy in their historical setting. Thus, the stories of the kings are intertwined with the corresponding prophets and their messages.

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 interwoven with the story of his life. After his affair with Bathsheba, you immediately read *Psalms 32* and *Psalms 51*, in which he expressed his guilt and need for forgiveness.

Fourth, the Gospels — *Matthew*, *Mark*, *Luke*, and *John* — are merged, rather than separated, and the combination makes for a smooth reading of the life and teaching of Jesus. Thus, you won't read the gospels 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. Thus, his letters are not disjointed books, but rather they are integrated with Paul's life and the history of the Church.

Finally, reading the Bible chronologically will help you understand the timing and relationship of the books. The Bible is difficult enough already, but when you disconnect books and read them separately, it adds another layer of confusion. However, when read in a chronological timeline, you will be able to see "the larger puzzle" like never before.

Though committing to anything for a year is challenging, the reward is worth the time and effort! So then, what are you waiting for? Open the *Daily Reflections* and start enjoying your exciting adventure through the Bible!

