

Read through the Bible in 2016!

(Submitted by Mike McKnight)

Suggested chapters to read so that we might read through the entire Bible during 2016! **This week's "schedule":**

- **Day 137** - 2 Samuel 16-18 Monday
- **Day 138** - Psalm 26, 40, 58, 61-62, 64 Tuesday
- **Day 139** - 2 Samuel 19-21 Wednesday
- **Day 140** - Psalm 5, 38, 41-42 Thursday
- **Day 141** - 2 Samuel 22-23; Psalm 57 Friday
- **Day 142** - Psalm 95, 97-99 Saturday
- **Day 143** - 2 Samuel 24; 1 Chronicles 21-22; Psalm 30 Sunday

May Birthdays

2 Peggy Woodruff 15 Kena Brown

June Birthdays

9 Debbie Pescador 20 Mike Bruni
12 Celina Perales 23 Agripina Carrillo

June Anniversaries

5 Kurt & Debbie Hoffman 11 Marcos & Celina Perales

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
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Should One Believe the Bible?

That ours is a confused culture is conceded by almost all respected observers. Why? Largely due to a lack of respect morally and ethically for any accepted standard of authority. Still the Bible claims to be God's Book or the authoritative Word of the One who made us (2 Timothy 3:16,17). Why don't more of us respect and honor its teachings? Clearly a lot of people don't believe it is reliable. What are the facts?

The Bible's trustworthiness is proven in a variety of ways. For example, long before science discovered many of the things the Bible affirms, it was scientifically accurate. Case in point? How Psalm 8:4 alludes to the "*paths of the sea.*" In actuality, sailors did not know about these paths until after the Civil War when they were studied and mapped by Admiral William Fontain Murray. How did the writer of the Psalms know about them 3,000 years earlier?

Critics have long tried to disprove the Bible's historical accuracy. Archaeological discoveries have invariably proven the Bible correct and its critics incorrect. One instance of this is the Hittites referred to in the Old Testament (Genesis 15:20). Detractors argued for a time that no such people ever existed until 1906 when 10,000 tablets were discovered written in the Hittite language and detailing much of their history.

Fulfilled prophecy proved that the Bible is inspired. No man can reliably predict what will take place in fifty years, much less a hundred, or a thousand years from now. Yet the Bible contains prophecies about the coming Savior and the future of the Jews that have clearly been fulfilled; prophecies made hundreds or thousands of years before their fulfillment (Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; 53:1-12; Micah. 5:2).

The point is that just as it is accurate regarding science, history and other matters, it is also reliable when it comes to the return of Christ, the judgment to come, and eternal reward or punishment. Wise people not only believe the Bible, they also obey it!

Come, Let Us Reason Together

By Stan Mitchell
Henderson, Tennessee

“All propaganda has to be popular and has to adapt its spiritual level to the perception of the least intelligent of those for whom it intends to direct itself” (Adolph Hitler, Mein Kampf).

The secret to propaganda, in other words, is to bring all of society down to the level of the lowest common denominator. It must appeal to the basest prejudices, the shallowest thinking. Hitler’s propaganda was a mix of fabrications and half-truths. It took Europe’s most organized and advanced civilization and dumbed it down till it was the dictator’s dupe.

What could be worse than a dictator who imposes thought control on his people? Here is a possibility. What about a society that imposes limitations on itself, a sort of ignorance by peer pressure?

It is said that early Christians out-thought their contemporaries. They didn’t say: “Be shallow, unthinking, gullible dummies.” They said: *“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good”* (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

They didn’t say, “Unscrew your heads when you enter worship. God doesn’t want you to understand His will; He just wants you to love Him with all of your heart.” Instead, Jesus told them to *“love the Lord with all your heart, soul . . . and mind”* (Mark 12:30). The Bible does not glory in ignorance.

They didn’t say: “That song’s words are too difficult. We want songs we can understand,” or “I loved your sermon; it was so simple.”

They said: *“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord”* (2 Peter 3:18).

Bertrand Russell, the skeptic, once sneered, “Most Christians would rather die than think . . . in fact, most do.” There is no contradiction between knowing God’s will and loving Him; those who love him will know his will! It’s not as if knowledge is cold and indifferent, while feelings are warm and loving! Ignorance of God’s word is the danger. Learning half-truths and reinforcing prejudged conclusions of Scripture is a danger in the church!

The church is not in the business of leveling our understanding and service down to that of the average twelve-year-old. It’s in the business of raising all of us to God’s level!

Which Came First?

Leroy Brownlow
Greatest Questions in the Old Testament

A young skeptic said to an elderly lady, “I once believed in God, but since studying science I am convinced that God is but an empty word.” The lady replied, “Well, I have not studied science, but since you have, maybe you can tell me from whence came this egg.” “Why, of course, from the hen,” was the reply. “And where did the hen come from?” “Why, the egg.” “And perhaps,” said the lady, “you can tell me which existed first.” “The hen, of course,” rejoined the young man. “You mean that a hen existed without having come from an egg?” “Oh, no,” said the young man, “I should have said the egg was first.” “Then you mean that an egg existed without having come from a hen?” The young man exclaimed, “You’ve got me all mixed up.” She drove home her point: “Young man, since you cannot explain the existence of even a hen or an egg without God, you cannot expect me to believe that you can explain the existence of the whole world without him.”

“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

John 8:32