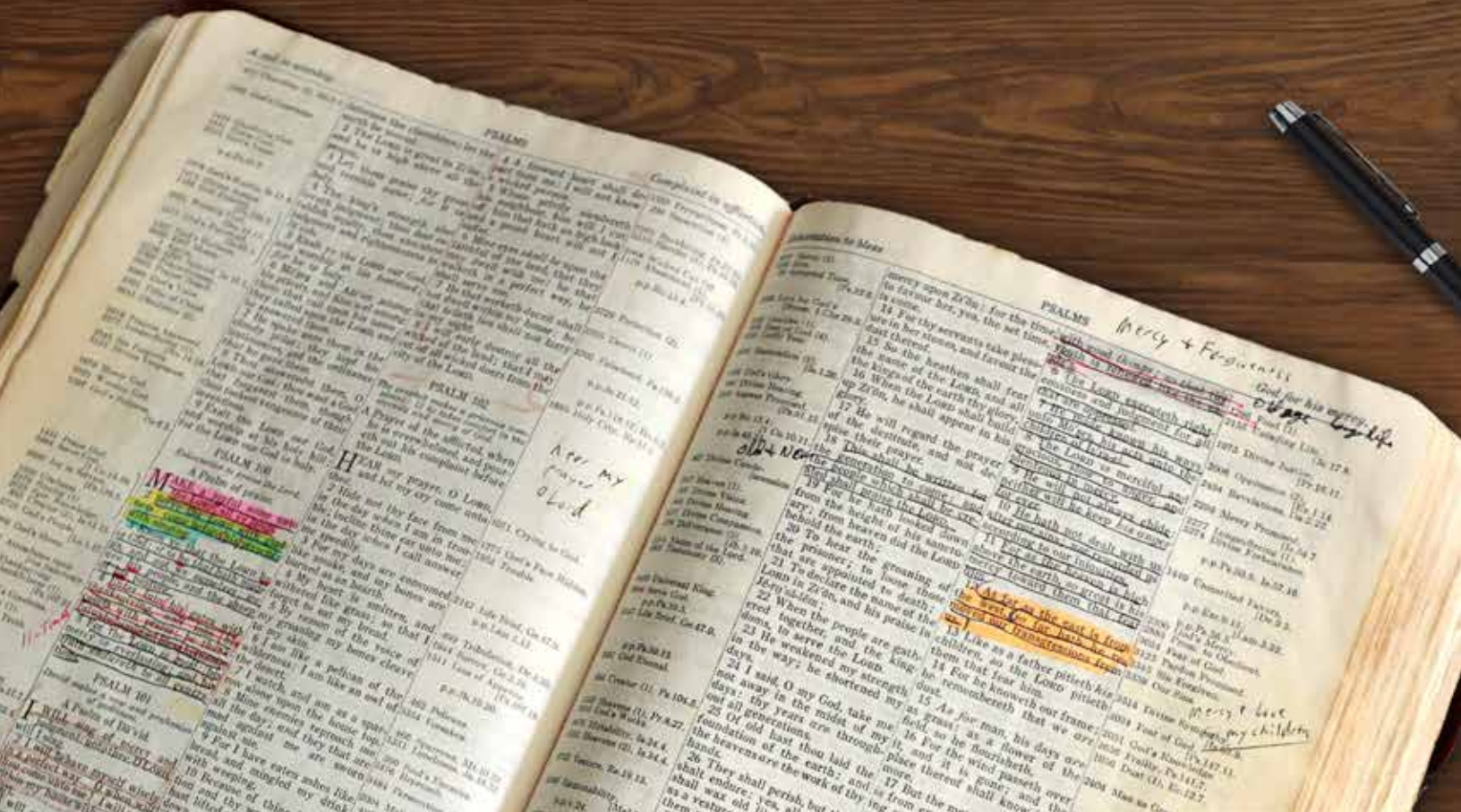


A YEAR IN THE BIBLE

MAY



May

It can sometimes feel difficult to read through historical writings. But, the Bible contains our history - our spiritual history. If you have never read through the Old Testament before, it may seem so unfamiliar to you that you might be tempted to give up. However, if you will consider reading your Bible a spiritual discipline, it can set you up for success. The first time you read a passage it gives you the information; but each subsequent time you come back to the passage you gain the familiarity and understanding. As your insight into the text grows, you will find that it sometimes it has an application in your daily life.

As you read about the divided kingdom (the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah) pay attention what the different kings do to get themselves in trouble. Worshipping gods other than Yahweh is the sin that gets repeated over and over.

Another thing to look for is any change in pattern. Sometimes the scripture gets very repetitive in its form, and then something breaks the rhythm. Whatever broke the pattern was placed there intentionally; try to look at what the author might be trying to convey. Years ago a book was published entitled, *The Prayer of Jabez: Breaking Through to the Blessed Life* by Bruce Wilkinson. It was written based on a change in the scripture pattern in the book of I Chronicles. The first three chapters of I Chronicles list a genealogy starting with Adam. In chapter four the genealogy continues until verses 9 and 10 which convey a very brief account of Jabez. Wilkinson wrote his book on that small section of scripture.

While long sections of repetition might seem boring, they communicate order and structure - until the rhythm is broken and something else is being highlighted.

Memory Verse

*O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures for ever!* (1 Chronicles 16:34)

Helpful Hints:

We encourage you to begin your Bible reading time by reciting the month's memory verse and then the daily Bible reading. Reflect on the reading - did it raise questions or confusion; did it inspire you or warm your heart? Then, to live in a spirit of gratitude, write down three things for which you're grateful. Finally, close your devotional time in prayer. While you might not feel the same way each day, the ongoing discipline of having a daily devotional time will have lasting impact on your life and certainly deepen your relationship with God.

I Kings Synopsis

The reign of King David is known as the “Golden Era” of Israel. During this time, the nation was unified and prosperous. Although David was by no means perfect, he was “A man after His (God’s) own heart.” (I Samuel 13:14) At the opening of I Kings, we find David in his old age. He is preparing to hand over the reign of the kingdom to his son, Solomon. I Kings is a book of transition. The kingdom of Israel will experience great success and tremendous failure as David passes and his children and grandchildren come to power.

I Kings is not simply a historical book, but it is also a prophetic book. Within the story of the kings is the constant reminder that we are called to be faithful to God. God desires His people to be more than political. God wants His people to be committed to His purpose and His commandments. I Kings is a reminder that, regardless of the transitions we face, God is constant, and we can trust in Him.

Date Scripture	Reflections on the Scripture What surprised or inspired you? What questions do you have?	Three things for which I’m thankful.
May 1 I Kings 8-9 Psalms 105		
May 2 I Kings 10-11 Psalms 105		
May 3 I Kings 12-13 Psalms 106		
May 4 I Kings 14-15 Psalms 106		
May 5 I Kings 16-17 Psalms 106		

Date Scripture	Reflections on the Scripture What surprised or inspired you? What questions do you have?	Three things for which I'm thankful.
May 6 I Kings 18-19 Psalms 106		
May 7 I Kings 20-22 Psalms 107		

II Kings

Unlike the book of I Kings, II Kings records the decline of the nation of Israel and Judah. By the end of I Kings, the “Gold Era” of Israel has collapsed. The nation has split into two distinct nations, Israel and Judah. The new kings struggle to remain faithful to God and to their role as leaders of their nation. Their lack of faithfulness leads the nation of Israel (the tribes of the north) to be destroyed by the Assyrians. Judah survives and under the leadership of Hezekiah and Josiah the nation returns to God. They experience a time of peace, but only for a short time. Eventually, the Babylonians, under the rule of Nebuchadnezzar, destroy Jerusalem and lead the people of Judah into exile.

These were the darkest of times for God’s people, but there was hope. In the midst of destruction God would speak of building a future. During exile, God would remain with His people. Through the prophets, God would speak words of encouragement and hope. The days would be difficult, but in the darkness, God’s light would shine.

Date Scripture	Reflections on the Scripture What surprised or inspired you? What questions do you have?	Three things for which I'm thankful.
May 8 II Kings 1 Psalms 107		
May 9 II Kings 2-3 Psalms 108		

Date Scripture	Reflections on the Scripture What surprised or inspired you? What questions do you have?	Three things for which I'm thankful.
May 10 II Kings 4-5 Psalms 109		
May 11 II Kings 6-7 Psalms 110		
May 12 II Kings 8-9 Psalms 111		
May 13 II Kings 10-11 Psalms 112		
May 14 II Kings 12-14 Psalms 113		
May 15 II Kings 15-16 Psalms 114		
May 16 II Kings 17-18 Psalms 115		

Date Scripture	Reflections on the Scripture What surprised or inspired you? What questions do you have?	Three things for which I'm thankful.
May 17 II Kings 19-20 Psalms 116		
May 18 II Kings 21-22 Psalms 117		
May 19 II Kings 23-25 Psalms 118		

I Chronicles

I and II Chronicles were originally one long work, but eventually divided into two smaller books, because they were too long to fit on one scroll. These two books retell the history of Israel from a slightly different point of view than that of II Samuel and I and II Kings. Although, many of the same stories are repeated.

Like most writings of its time, I Chronicles contains lists that trace the descendants of Adam to the generation of King Saul. The book deals mostly with King David and closes with his death. The narrative sections cover the events in David's life, military exploits, and how he became king. Information about his staff and their duties, preparations to build the temple, and instructions for proper worship occupy much of the text.

The Chronicler, the author, uses many stories from other sources, especially I and II Kings, some scholars suggest that Chronicles was rewritten after the return from exile to encourage the people of Israel.

Date Scripture	Reflections on the Scripture What surprised or inspired you? What questions do you have?	Three things for which I'm thankful.
May 20 I Chronicles 1-2 Psalms 119		

Date Scripture	Reflections on the Scripture What surprised or inspired you? What questions do you have?	Three things for which I'm thankful.
May 21 I Chronicles 3-5 Psalms 119		
May 22 I Chronicles 6-7 Psalms 119		
May 23 I Chronicles 8-10 Psalms 119		
May 24 I Chronicles 11-13 Psalms 119		
May 25 I Chronicles 14-16 Psalms 119		
May 26 I Chronicles 17-20 Psalms 119		
May 27 I Chronicles 21-23 Psalms 119		

Date Scripture	Reflections on the Scripture What surprised or inspired you? What questions do you have?	Three things for which I'm thankful.
May 28 I Chronicles 24-26 Psalms 119		
May 29 I Chronicles 27-29 Psalms 119		
May 30 II Chronicles 1-3 Psalms 119		
May 31 II Chronicles 4-6 Psalms 119		



ONE CHURCH WITH MULTIPLE CAMPUSES

Downtown Campus
 222 NW 15th Street
 Oklahoma City, OK 73103
 (405) 232-1371
stlukesokc.org

Edmond Campus
 900 N. Sooner Road
 Edmond, OK 73034
 (405) 285-2002
stlukesedmond.org