

Hello All,

I wanted to give you guidance on how to read the bible. As we embark on this year long journey together I want to help guide you on your time in the Word. The reason we are reading the Bible is to create a biblical culture of devotion. That stated, earmark this email or print it out so you can refer to it when you read.

First, begin with prayer.

Second ask these questions:

- **Who** is speaking? Who is this about? Who are the main characters?
- **To Whom** is he speaking?
- **What** is the subject or event covered in the chapter? What do you learn about the people, event, or the teaching from the text? What instructions are given?
- **When** do or will the events occur? When did or will something happen to a particular person, people, or nation? When is a key question in determining the progression of events.
- **Where** did or will this happen Where was it said?
- **Why** is something being said or mentioned? Why would or will this happen? Why at this time? Why this person?
- **How** will it happen? How is it to be done? How is it illustrated?

Third, mark key words and phrases: God, Love, Law, Repent, Sin, Covenant, Grace, Gospel, Jesus, Holy Spirit, etc.

Fourth, look for lists. Lists highlight important concepts.

Fifth, watch for contrasts and comparisons. The use of highly descriptive language drive home significant truths and vital lessons.

Sixth, note expressions of time.

Seventh, identify terms of conclusion

The Book of Genesis

Genesis falls into two segments. The first, chapters 1-11, covers four major events. Note the order of what is created and how the day begins and ends. Pay attention to the repeated phrases in Genesis 1. In following chapters observe conversation, tactics, disobedience, and consequences.

The second segment, chapters 12-50, covers the lives of four major characters. Pay close attention to references of time in each life covered,

covenants made, and how God interacts with people, families, associates, and what happens as a result.

The Book of Psalms

While reading Psalms remember you are reading poetry. Sometimes it is in the form of prayers or songs. Pay attention to theme and how it develops. Some psalms give insight into the history of Israel and others give insight into the attributes of God. In each case it is a good practice to use a Psalm to begin your prayer time with the Lord. The psalms are for the heart, soul, and mind. Therefore be reflective and meditate on the psalm you read.

The Book of Matthew

This Gospel is divided into 6 parts with dividing phrases in 7:28; 11:1; 13:53; 19:1; and 26:1. The book covers facts concerning the person and works of Jesus, His teachings, Instructions, and Parables. Watch for the events, works, or facts which demonstrate who Jesus Christ is. When reading teachings on particular subjects grasp the main points covered. In the final events record the progression of events. Lastly, be sure to ask yourself which character best describes how I respond to the subjects presented? Are there circumstances that I can relate to and why? What responsibilities does this book present that I need to address?

The Book of Acts

This book records the early church. How it was formed and the acts of the apostles. It takes a deep look into places, people, and actions. Read this book and pay attention to instructions and promises given. Observe when the gospel goes to different geographical regions. It would be a good idea to mark references and acts of the Holy Spirit, His ministry, and results. Attempt to determine the theme of each chapter and what the author is communicating. When you have determined the theme you should ask yourself these questions: what have I learned from the Acts of the apostles and the Holy Spirit? How am I responsible to act in light of what I learned? What would I include in my witness that I observed from those who gave their testimonies? How do these accounts affect your heart? Is the Holy Spirit active in you as he was in the early disciples?

This is plenty! My hope is not to overwhelm you but to assist you in reading the word with purpose. If you attempt to read this way you will notice your spiritual tank begin to overflow. Conversations that once were lifeless will become purposeful. Difficult areas of life will become illuminated by scripture and the Holy Spirit.

Know that I pray with you that this will be a great experience of exploring God's Word together.

Blessings,

Darius Holland | Pastor
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Read the Book of Genesis online with full chapter and verse text. Study Scripture verses with commentary, concordances, and use highlighting, underlining, take notes in the Bible. This summary of the book of Genesis provides information about the title, author(s), date of writing, chronology, theme, theology, outline, a brief overview, and the chapters of the Book of Genesis. Title. The first phrase in the Hebrew text of 1:1 is bereshith ("in [the] beginning"), which is also the Hebrew title of the book (books in ancient times customarily were named after their first word or two). the holy bible, the book of genesis. The book of genesis. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50. Chapter 1. [1:1] In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, [1:2] the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. [1:3] Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. [1:4] And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. [1:5] God