

THE WORD AS A WAY OF LIFE

Reading God's Word - Every 90 Days

A SYSTEMATIC DAILY BIBLE READING PROGRAM

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Shuvah Yisrael Messianic Synagogue

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including "*The Word As A Way of Life*"

STARTER KIT

"Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; Jeremiah 15:16

"All the *mitzvot* I am giving you today you are to take care to obey, so that you will live, increase your numbers, enter and take possession of the land *ADONAI* swore about to your ancestors. ² You are to remember everything of the way in which *ADONAI* led you these forty years in the desert, humbling and testing you in order to know what was in your heart — whether you would obey his *mitzvot* or not. ³ He humbled you, allowing you to become hungry, and then fed you with *manna*, which neither you nor your ancestors had ever known, ***to make you understand that a person does not live on bread alone but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of ADONAI.*** Deut. 8:1-3

LIVING IN THE BOUNDARIES OF GOD'S WORD:

Just as God promised the children of Israel an amazing possession, a fruitful land full with milk and honey, so He has promised us the incredible treasure of His Word as our inheritance to possess and live in. As Israel was commanded to go into the land and divide it into 12 territories, so ***The Word As A Way Of Life*** divides the Bible into 12 natural divisions. Start laying claim to your inheritance by placing a Boundary Marker™ Bookmark at the beginning of each of the 12 sections listed. Begin to walk through the land of God's Word by reading one chapter from each section everyday. The sections are divided close to a 90 day cycle of readings in each section while at the same time, maintaining a clear connectedness to the telling of the Biblical story of redemption.

THE BOUNDARIES OF GOD'S WORD

12 Chapters a Day from 12 Sections of The Word

SECTION 1: <i>Genesis & Exodus:</i>	<i>Read 90 Chapters in 90 Days!</i>
SECTION 2: <i>Leviticus, Numbers & Deuteronomy:</i>	<i>Read 97 Chapters in 97 Days!</i>
SECTION 3: <i>Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1&2 Samuel:</i>	<i>Read 104 Chapters in in 104 Days</i>
SECTION 4: <i>1&2 Kings and 1&2 Chronicles</i>	<i>Read 112 Chapters in 112 Days</i>
SECTION 5: <i>Ezra, Neh., Esth., Job, Eccl., Song of Sol.</i>	<i>Read 95 Chapters in 95 Days</i>
SECTION 6: <i>Psalms</i> (1, 2 or 3 chapters a day)	<i>Read 150 Chapters in about 90 days</i>
SECTION 7: <i>Proverbs</i> (Read about once a month)	<i>Read 31 Chapters in 31 Days</i>
SECTION 8: <i>Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lam., Ezekiel</i>	<i>Read 171 Chapters in 171 days</i>
SECTION 9: <i>Daniel through Malachi</i>	<i>Read 79 Chapters in 79 Days</i>
SECTION 10: <i>Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts</i>	<i>Read 117 Chapters in 117 Days</i>
SECTION 11: <i>Rom., 1&2 Corin., Hebrews & Rev.</i>	<i>Read 80 Chapters in 80 Days</i>
SECTION 12: <i>Galatians - Philemon & James - Jude</i>	<i>Read 63 Chapters in 63 Days</i>

A Basic Overview of the Twelve Sections

SECTION 1: Summary of **GENESIS & EXODUS** (90 Chapter in 90 Days):

GENESIS (בְּרֵאשִׁית • *B'resheet: beginning* • 50 Chapters) The story of God's infinite and perfect creation (Gen. 1:1) which is mysteriously broken (Gen. 1:2) and God's unfolding plan to fix it, called **Tikkun Olam** (תִּיקּוּן עוֹלָם • the healing of the World). A plan that begins with the healing of the world (Gen.1&2) by transforming the chaotic and broken earth into an exploding paradise of living things. God then crowns this restoration with the creation of mankind, male and female, made in the very image and likeness of God. Paradise is then broken again by mankind's seduction and influence of **Hasatan** (הַשָּׂטָן-Satan: see Job 1:7) because of his hatred for God and mankind that resembles **Him**. The seduction of mankind establishes the necessity of a **redeemer** who will eventually come through her seed to destroy the adversaries seed (Gen. 2:15) but will live in a dynamic and mutual tension until the end time.

God's plan to bring **The Redeemer** into the world truly begins with the unconditional Covenant established with Abraham (Gen.12-17) and the introduction of the Patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, followed by the establishing of the twelve tribes of Israel. Genesis 12 through 50 tells the story of this **seed nation** as it grows from one man and one family into a nation of twelve tribes. This seed nation is then planted like a seed into the nation of Egypt where they will become a great nation as God spoke to Ya'akov (יַעֲקֹב • Jacob), "**And he said, I am God, the God of thy father: fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation** (Gen. 46:3).

Note: The One Year Babylonian Torah Haftarah Cycle: 50 Chapters of Genesis are read in 12 Weeks

EXODUS (שְׁמוֹת • Shemot: “Names” • 40 Chapters) Continues the narrative with the actual birth of the nation of Israel through their miraculous deliverance from four hundred years of slavery in Egypt, their fifty day Journey to Sinai to meet the God of their fathers, the giving of the Law at Sinai and the building of The Tabernacle as they near the first anniversary of their freedom from Egypt.

Note: In the One Year Babylonian Torah Haftarah Cycle the 40 chapters of Exodus are red in “10 weeks”

SECTION 2: LEVITICUS, NUMBERS & DEUTERONOMY: (97 Chapters in 97 Days)

Leviticus (27 Chapters), **Numbers** (36 chapters) and **Deuteronomy** (34 chapters): continue the history of Israel at Sinai, their departure into their troubled 40 year wilderness experience, and finally, the reiteration of the story as the second generation prepares to cross the Jordan into the Promised Land.

SECTION 3: The history of Israel’s conquest of the land from the time of Joshua (24), Judges (21) to the establishing of the Davidic kingdom in the books of 1 Samuel (31) and 2 Samuel (24).

SECTION 4: The history of the kings of Israel and Judah from Solomon, 1 Kings (22) and 2 Kings (25) toward the tragedy of the Babylonian captivity.

SECTION 5: Combines the unique style of the Poetical Books and Esther with the inspiring post-captivity revival messages of Ezra and Nehemiah.

SECTION 6: Psalms are the songbook of the scriptures and express the heartfelt meditations of men who loved God and His Word.

SECTION 7: Proverbs are a powerful source of distilled wisdom and common sense for day to day living.

SECTION 8: The Major Prophets strongly expressed the heart and desire of God towards his people and provide some of the most important Messianic prophecies in Scripture.

SECTION 9: The Minor Prophets declare short, focused messages directed to the people of their day with strong practical application for our lives today.

SECTION 10: The history of Messiah's life and ministry on earth are fully documented in the four gospel accounts. The Acts of the Apostles provide the historical timeline for the entire New Covenant Scriptures. It expresses the lifestyle and events of the earliest Messianic Jewish community and could easily stand as a daily reading section of its own.

SECTION 11: The Major Epistles establish most of the major doctrinal positions of our New Covenant faith in Messiah.

SECTION 12: The Minor Epistles offer short practical teachings for day to day living.

IMPORTANT GUIDELINES FOR FINDING THE WORD AS A WAY OF LIFE

1. FIND THE WORD AS FOOD: The prophet Jeremiah discovered the Word of God as food for his inner man. He said **"Your words were found and I did eat them and Your word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of my heart"** (Jer. 15:16). We are keenly aware of our need for physical food, but are often lacking in the ability to sense our deep spiritual hunger for God's Word. Once we discover it, and begin to feed our inner man properly, we will **"treasure the words of His mouth MORE THEN OUR NECESSARY FOOD"** (Job 23:12). **Note:** Make this an issue of prayer. Ask God to give you this hunger for His Word. Say, **"LORD make me to know how deeply I need Your Word."** (See Ezek. 3:1-4, Deut. 8:3 John 6:27,35)

2. EAT A BALANCED DIET OF GOD'S WORD: Once we become aware of this deep hunger for real food, we must learn to eat a balance diet from all the **"Food groups"** of God's Word every single day. Without realizing it, many believers have neglected major portions of the Word for most of their believing lives, and have suffered from lopsided growth, spiritual malnutrition, and even spiritual death. A balanced diet in God's Word will establish, strengthen and settle you on a firm foundation.

3. BE CONSISTENT, BE COMMITTED: A balanced diet won't help; you if your diet isn't consistent. We are not talking about a fad diet. We're talking about a life change, where we actively make God's Word a way of life. This is something we cannot live without. Be persistent in developing a set time to read and study God's Word. Make a solid commitment. Consistency will reap tremendous benefits, as you build a strong foundation in the Word.

4. FAMILIARITY FIRST: By reading one chapter from each of the twelve (or eight) basic natural divisions of the Word everyday, you will be getting an excellent cross-section of Scripture. You will begin to experience the **"interrelation"** of the Word of God to itself, and will start to develop your own personal cross-referencing system. Within a short period of time, you will be developing a growing familiarity with ALL of God's Word. You will discover that God's Word is like a beautiful, woven tapestry as you see the broad, deep themes of the Word repeated and expanded in every section of the Word that you are studying. What once seemed like a huge, complex book now becomes smaller and easier to understand. As a result, you will not be tossed about by every wind of doctrine, but you will stand strong in God's eternal truths.

5. HAVE A PLAN, SPY OUT THE LAND: In Joshua 18, Joshua said, **"How long will you neglect to go and possess the land which the Lord has given you?"** He then sent men into the land to map out and survey the unsettled territories. As they walked through the land, they wrote down their findings in a book. Their familiarity with the land provided them with the ability to rightly divide the inheritance for the remaining seven tribes. The Boundary Marker Bookmarks are designed to give you a short record in each section of what you find as you walk through the land of God's Word. As you read, simply write down short notations and those passages that stand out as special places you want to visit again. These **"Footprints"** in the land will provide you with a clear, referenced landmark of where you've been, so you'll know where you're going.

6. RESTING PLACES: As you become more and more familiar with God's Word, you will begin to notice passages of Scripture that always deeply move you. Keep a separate list of these Scriptures, and refer to them often. These are **"Resting Places"**, places where, in the intimacy of God's presence, He will reveal Himself and teach you about His will for your life. This is where you begin to eat the solid meat of His Word, and start building a real devotional life. This is also where your footsteps through the land of God's Word begin to pay off, as you now learn to digest what you have eaten. (See Josh. 1:13, Isa. 32:18. Jer. 50:6)

7. MEDITATION: By spending time in **"Resting Places,"** and learning to digest God's Word, you will begin to memorize these passages in a very natural way. Biblical meditation was practiced by all the great men of God including Joshua, David Solomon and Paul. The Word of God will become an integral part of your thought life, as you continue to grow more and more familiar with these passages. Spend time **"chewing on the Word,"** and begin to **"meditate in it day and night."** (See Josh. 1:8, Prov. 6:20-23)

8. PRAYER & QUIET TIME: As you begin to develop a lifestyle that works towards mediation in God's Word day and night, His Word will begin to permeate every area of your life. Messiah promised to give us the Ruach ha Kodesh (the Holy Spirit) as a Comforter and a Helper, to lead us into all truth, and to bring to our remembrance all the things He had spoken. Therefore, read God's Word prayerfully with a heart to hear from Him. Invite the Holy Spirit to minister to you through His Word. Soon, "**Quiet Time**" will no longer just be 10-15 minutes in the morning, but an active practice of God's presence throughout the day. You will notice an increased power in prayer, as your intercessions are bathed in the water of God's Word. (See John 14:23-26, 15:7,3)

9. REMEMBER, DON'T FORGET: *"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may OBSERVE TO DO according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success"* (Josh 1:18). God was constantly admonishing Israel to remember, consider, observe and do all the things He told them. When they obeyed, they experienced revival and good success. When they neglected the Word, they began to forget all that God had done for them. Once they entered this downward trend, the results were eventual abandonment of God's standards and enslavement by the world around them. Diligently keeping God's Word always before us is the only way to avoid compromise and the human tendency to forget. (See 2 Pet.1:1-15, Heb. 2:1-4, 4:11-12)

10. DON'T BE DISCOURAGED: Building the right devotional life takes time. Start out with a formal, disciplined approach to your time in God's Word. This will help you measure your reading abilities and progress against a "standard." Don't be afraid to change it to fit your special needs. If 12 chapters seem too difficult to start out with, you may choose the 8 chapter option, shown on the reading schedule decal. Invest your time with God, and you won't be disappointed. Ask God to help you stretch. It is designed to help you grow in the development of a consistent devotional life. Be encouraged! There is a good report. You can possess your full inheritance, as you make God's Word A WAY OF LIFE! (See Josh. 1:9)

NOTE: for added encouragement to get into God's Word, read and consider often the 22 sections of Psalms 119. Also, look up all of the Scripture references in this brochure and consider them prayerfully

IT'S EASY TO START

- Place the Laminated Decal on the inside front cover of your Bible for easy reference and to serve as a reminder of your commitment to read God's Word.
- Place one Boundary Marker Bookmark in the first Chapter of the first Book of each Section, and mark down the "Section Number in the space provided.
- Begin to read one chapter from each section everyday and move your markers as you proceed.
- As you read, write down on your Boundary Marker those passages of Scripture you want to consider more thoroughly, or that speak to you in a special way. Remember though, don't spend a lot of time writing.
- Throughout the day, take short breaks and refer back to the "Footprints" and "Resting Places" you discovered while reading Meditate on these passages as often as possible, considering their personal application for your life.
- REMEMBER, if you miss part of your daily reading, don't worry about playing "catch up." Simply start fresh the next day from where you left off, work towards consistency, approach the Word prayerfully and ...ENJOY!

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