

The One-Year Hebrew Bible Reading Plan (2020 beta)

Weekly Readings Sorted According to Increasing Vocabulary Difficulty

Welcome to the experiment! These passages were ranked based on a weighted scale, taking into account the relative percentages of rare and common words that occur. My algorithm takes into account the proportion of words that occur in the entire Hebrew Bible 1–10 times, 10–20 times, 20–50 times, 50–200 times, and greater than 200 times—giving greater weight to the influence of the rarest and most common vocabulary. I also removed proper names, conjunctions, prepositions, articles, and the direct object marker from the calculation of difficulty, since they occur so often. Aramaic portions of the Hebrew Bible have been omitted from the list.

Your feedback is greatly appreciated. Send comments to timothy.mcnicch@emory.edu. I'd love to know if the order *feels* like it is increasing in difficulty over time (it should!). Is there too much to read each week? Does the “out-of-order” nature of such a list still work for you, or would a book-by-book (in order of difficulty) list be better? Any other thoughts you may have are also very welcome! בהצלחה

(א) WEEK OF JANUARY 6

Josh 13–22 *Allocation of the Land*
Josh 23–24 *Joshua's Last Speeches*
2 Kgs 13–17 *Fall of the Northern Kingdom*

(ב) WEEK OF JANUARY 13

1 Chron 1–9 *Genealogies*
1 Chron 17–20 *David's Military Exploits*
1 Kgs 12–16 *Divided Kingdom*

(ג) WEEK OF JANUARY 20

Josh 1–5 *Preparations for Conquest*
Deut 1–4 *Moses' First Address*
2 Sam 5–10 *David as King of All Israel*

(ד) WEEK OF JANUARY 27

Jud 1–2 *Judges Introduction*
Num 1–10 *In the Wilderness of Sinai*

(ה) WEEK OF FEBRUARY 3

Josh 6–12 *Conquest of the Land*
2 Sam 11–16 *David's Personal Troubles*

(ו) WEEK OF FEBRUARY 10

2 Sam 17–20 *David's Personal Troubles (cont.)*
Num 22–29 *On the Moabite Plain*

(ז) WEEK OF FEBRUARY 17

Num 29–36 *On the Moabite Plain (cont.)*
1 Kgs 17–22 *Elijah Stories*

(ח) WEEK OF FEBRUARY 24

Ezra 1–4:7 *Exiles Return and Rebuild*
Jer 26–40 *Narratives of Hope*

(ט) WEEK OF MARCH 2

Jer 40–45 *Narratives of Hope (cont.)*
Jud 17–21 *No King in Israel*

(י) WEEK OF MARCH 9

2 Sam 1–4 *David Becomes King of Judah*
2 Kgs 6–12 *More Kings*
2 Kgs 18–20 *Fall of the Southern Kingdom*

(יא) WEEK OF MARCH 16

2 Kgs 21–25 *Fall of the South (cont.)*
2 Chron 29–36 *Monarchy Reunited*

(יב) WEEK OF MARCH 23

2 Chron 10–28 *Divided Kingdom*

(יג) WEEK OF MARCH 30

1 Chron 21–29 *David and the Temple*
1 Sam 7–15 *Saul Stories*

(יד) WEEK OF APRIL 6

2 Kgs 1–5 *Elisha Stories*
Gen 12–25 *Abraham Stories*

(טו) WEEK OF APRIL 13

Hag 1–2 *Haggai*
Ezek 33–39 *Oracles of Restoration*
1 Sam 16–24 *David and Saul Stories*

(טז) WEEK OF APRIL 20

1 Sam 25–31 *David and Saul Stories (cont.)*
Num 11–15 *Wilderness Wanderings*

(יז) WEEK OF APRIL 27

Num 16–21 *Wilderness Wanderings (cont.)*
1 Sam 1–3 *Samuel's Childhood*
1 Chron 10–16 *Saul, David, & the Ark*

(יח) WEEK OF MAY 4

Ezra 7:27–10 *Ezra Returns to Jerusalem*
2 Chron 1–9 *Solomon's Reign*
1 Kgs 1–2 *Solomon Becomes King*

(יט) WEEK OF MAY 11

1 Kgs 3–11 *Solomon Becomes King (cont.)*
Ezek 8–11 *Ezekiel's Vision*

(כ) WEEK OF MAY 18

Gen 1–11 *The Beginnings of Humanity*
Ezek 40–48 *Vision of the Temple*

(כא) WEEK OF MAY 25

Deut 5–20 *Moses' Second Address*

(כב) WEEK OF JUNE 1

Deut 21–34 *Moses' Second Address (cont.)*

(כג) WEEK OF JUNE 8

Exod 1–11 *Israelites in Egypt*
Neh 1–10 *Nehemiah*

(כד) WEEK OF JUNE 15

Neh 11–13 *Nehemiah (cont.)*
Gen 26–36 *Jacob Stories*

(כה) WEEK OF JUNE 22

Jud 3–16 *Major and Minor Judges*

(כו) WEEK OF JUNE 29

Exod 16–18 *Israelites in the Wilderness*
Lev 16–27 *The Day of Atonement*

(כז) WEEK OF JULY 6

Gen 37–50 *Joseph Stories*

(כח) WEEK OF JULY 13

Ruth 1–4 *Ruth*
Isa 36–39 *Hezekiah and Isaiah Stories*
Lev 8–10 *Instructions for Worship*
1 Sam 4–6 *The Ark Narrative*
Exod 12–15 *Israelites Delivered from Egypt*

(כט) WEEK OF JULY 20

Lev 1–7 *Instructions for Sacrifices*
Ezek 1–3 *Ezekiel's Call*
Jer 52 *Fall of Jerusalem*

(ל) WEEK OF JULY 27

Zech 1–14 *Zechariah*
Esther 1–10 *Esther*

(לא) WEEK OF AUGUST 3

Mal 1–4 *Malachi*
Jer 1–12 *Poetry of Judgment*

(לב) WEEK OF AUGUST 10

Jer 13–25 *Poetry of Judgment (cont.)*

(לג) WEEK OF AUGUST 17

Dan 8–12 *Daniel Apocalyptic Visions (Heb)*
Qoh 1–12 *Qohelet*

(לד) WEEK OF AUGUST 24

2 Sam 21–24 *Epilogue*
Ezek 4–7 *Judgment against Jerusalem*
Jonah 1–4 *Jonah*
Job 1–3 *Prologue*
Exod 19–24 *Israelites at Sinai*

(לה) WEEK OF AUGUST 31

Exod 25–40 *Israelites at Sinai (cont.)*

(לו) WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 7

Ezek 12–24 *More Judgment*

(לז) WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 14

Dan 1–2:3 *Daniel Introduction (Hebrew)*

Amos 1–9 *Amos*

Ps 90–106 *Psalms Book 4*

(לח) WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 21

Ps 107–150 *Psalms Book 5*

(לט) WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 28

Ps 73–89 *Psalms Book 3*

Zeph 1–3 *Zephaniah*

Jer 46–51 *Oracles against the Nations*

(מ) WEEK OF OCTOBER 5

Isa 56–66 *To the Post–exilic Community*

Ezek 25–32 *Oracles against the Nations*

(מא) WEEK OF OCTOBER 12

Isa 40–55 *Oracles of Salvation*

Micah 1–7 *Micah*

(מב) WEEK OF OCTOBER 19

Obadiah *Obadiah*

Lev 11–15 *Regulations*

Prov 30–31 *Concluding Proverbs*

Hos 1–14 *Hosea*

(מג) WEEK OF OCTOBER 26

Ps 1–41 *Psalms Book 1*

(מד) WEEK OF NOVEMBER 2

Ps 42–72 *Psalms Book 2*

Joel 1–3 *Joel*

(מה) WEEK OF NOVEMBER 9

Isa 6–12 *Isaiah Stories*

Lam 1–5 *Lamentations*

Prov 23–24 *Words of the Wise*

Prov 1–9 *Wisdom*

(מו) WEEK OF NOVEMBER 16

Job 4–20 *Speeches*

(מז) WEEK OF NOVEMBER 23

Job 21–37 *Speeches (cont.)*

(מח) WEEK OF NOVEMBER 30

Prov 10–22 *Wise Sayings of Solomon*

Hab 1–3 *Habakkuk*

(מט) WEEK OF DECEMBER 7

Isa 13–23 *Oracles against the Nations*

Isa 1–5 *Judgment against Judah*

(נ) WEEK OF DECEMBER 14

Prov 25–29 *More Proverbs*

Isa 24–27 *Apocalyptic Material*

(נא) WEEK OF DECEMBER 21

Job 38–42 *Job and God*

(נב) WEEK OF DECEMBER 28

Isa 28–35 *Oracles of Judgment*

Nahum 1–3 *Nahum*

Song 1–8 *Song of Songs*