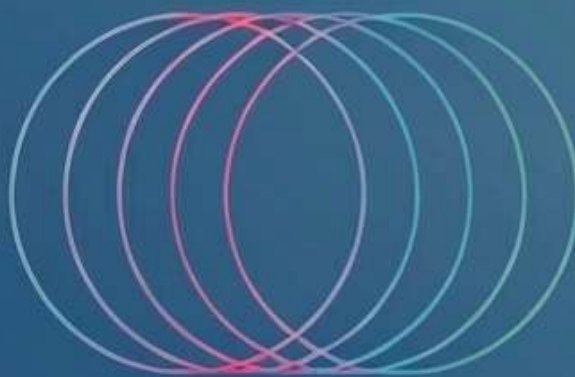


THE STORY OF SCRIPTURE

A 5-Day Reading Plan

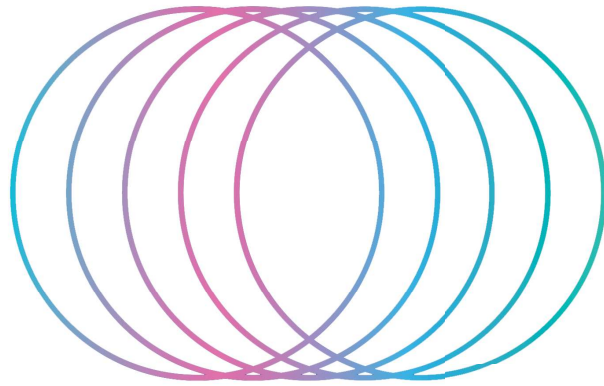
drawn from 

The Bible, Simplified.



Learn the story.
Live the story.

Zach Windahl

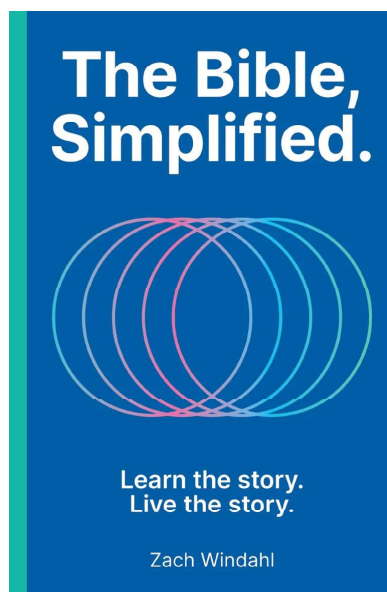


Have you ever felt like the Bible is a giant puzzle, and you're not quite sure how all the pieces fit together?

The goal with this reading plan is to give you a bird's-eye view of the Bible's single, epic story—from the first moments of creation to the beautiful promise of how it all ends.

Each day, we'll look at a key part of the story, helping you see God's incredible plan for humanity and for you.

Let's jump in!



Day 1: Creation and the First Promise

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1-3

Reflection

The story starts in a perfect world, a garden where God walked with the people He made. But then, a single choice led to a heartbreaking separation. In this passage, we see that moment when sin entered the world and created a gap between us and God.

But here's the amazing part: right there, in the middle of the mess, God gives the very first whisper of hope. He promises that a Rescuer will come to fix what was broken.

This is the promise that pulls the rest of the Old Testament forward. It reminds us that God's first response to our failure wasn't just anger; it was a rescue plan. From the very beginning, He was making a way back to Him.

To see how this foundational promise unfolds, explore the insights in *The Bible, Simplified*, with your Bible Gateway Plus account.

Day 2: Covenants, Kings, and a Kingdom

Scripture Reading: 2 Samuel 5-7

Reflection

Fast forward through many generations. God is now forming a nation called Israel and gives them a king—David, a man He was really proud of. In this passage, God makes a special promise, called a covenant, with David. He promises that David's kingdom and his throne will last forever.

Now, this wasn't just about earthly kings; it was a giant arrow pointing to the future. God was hinting at an eternal King who would come from David's own family line.

The history of Israel has its ups and downs, but this promise stands firm. It shows us that God is weaving His plan through human history to set up a perfect kingdom with a perfect King.

Discover the connection between King David and the ultimate King, Jesus, with the helpful notes in *The Bible, Simplified* on Bible Gateway Plus.

Day 3: Jesus the Messiah Arrives

Scripture: John 1, Matthew 3-4

Reflection

After centuries of waiting, the story hits its most important moment. The Rescuer and King finally shows up, but in a way no one saw coming.

The Gospel of John introduces Jesus as more than just a good teacher; he is God in human skin—the “Word made flesh.” Think about that: the Creator of the universe stepped right into His own creation to be with us.

This is the turning point of the entire Bible. The God who seemed far away is now close enough to touch. Jesus is the fulfillment of all those promises from the Old Testament. He’s the solution to the separation from the garden and the forever King promised to David. His arrival changes absolutely everything.

Go deeper into why Jesus’ arrival is such a big deal by reading the notes from *The Bible, Simplified* alongside this passage with Bible Gateway Plus.

Day 4: The Mission of the Early Church

Scripture: Acts 1-2, 9

Reflection

After Jesus returned to heaven, He left his followers with a mission. He told them they would be his witnesses, sharing the good news about His kingdom all over the world. This is how the church was born.

The same disciples who were once hiding in fear were now filled with the Holy Spirit and boldly told everyone about Jesus.

The book of Acts is the incredible story of how this small group started a movement that changed the world. Their job wasn't to build a physical empire, but a spiritual family, inviting people from every nation to find forgiveness and new life.

You and I are now part of that same story and that same mission.

Explore the amazing journey of the early church and its mission with insights from *The Bible, Simplified*, available with Bible Gateway Plus.

Day 5: The Hope of a New Creation

Scripture: Revelation 21-22

Reflection

The Bible's story doesn't just end; it points us toward an amazing future. The final book, Revelation, pulls back the curtain to show us God's ultimate goal: to make everything new.

The brokenness from the garden is finally and completely gone. This chapter paints a beautiful picture of a new heaven and a new earth where there's no more sadness, pain, or death.

And the best part? God is living with His people. The separation is over for good. This is the happy ending we all long for, where the garden is restored and the King is on His throne. This is the hope that can give us strength for whatever we face today.

Unpack the powerful promises of Revelation and complete your journey through the Bible's story using the study tools in Bible Gateway Plus.

The Bible, Simplified Scripture Alignment Index

Follow the links below to read each Scripture passage where a chapter of *The Bible, Simplified* appears alongside the text in Bible Gateway Plus.

Creation and the Fall: [Gen 1](#)

Cain and Abel: [Gen 4](#)

Noah and the Flood: [Gen 6](#)

The Tower of Babel: [Gen 11](#)

Introduction to Covenants: [Gen 9:8](#), [Gen 15](#), [Gen 17](#), [Exod 24](#),
[2 Sam 7:12](#), [Jer 31:31](#)

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: [Gen 12](#)

Joseph: [Gen 37](#)

The Early Life of Moses: [Exod 1](#)

The Exodus from Egypt: [Exod 3](#)

Receiving the Law: [Exod 19](#), [Lev 1](#)

Shaping a Nation in the Wilderness: [Num 1](#), [Deut 1](#)

Conquering the Promised Land: [Josh 1](#)

Judges: [Judg 1](#)

The Kings and the Temple: [1 Sam 1](#), [2 Sam 1](#)

The Divided Kingdom: [1 Kgs 1](#), [2 Kgs 1](#), [1 Chr 1](#), [2 Chr 1](#)

Major and Minor Prophets: [Isa 1](#), [Jer 1](#), [Lam 1](#), [Ezek 1](#), [Dan 1](#), [Hos 1](#),
[Joel 1](#), [Amos 1](#), [Obad 1](#), [Jonah 1](#), [Mic 1](#), [Nah 1](#), [Hab 1](#), [Zeph 1](#), [Hag 1](#),
[Zech 1](#), [Mal 1](#)

The Psalms: [Ps 1](#)

Wisdom Literature: [Ps 1](#), [Prov 1](#), [Eccl 1](#), [Song 1](#), [Job 1](#)

Scripture Alignment Index (continued)

The Babylonian Exile: [2 Kgs 1](#), [2 Chr 1](#), [Ezra 1](#), [Jer 1](#), [Lam 1](#), [Dan 1](#)

Returning and Rebuilding: [Ezra 1](#), [Neh 1](#)

"The Silent Years": [Matt 1](#)

How to Read the Gospels: [Matt 1](#), [Mark 1](#), [Luke 1](#), [John 1](#)

The Birth and Early Life of Jesus: [Matt 1](#), [Luke 1](#)

Preparing for Ministry: [Matt 3](#), [Mark 1](#), [Luke 3](#)

Calling the Disciples: [Matt 4](#), [Mark 1](#), [Luke 5](#), [John 1](#)

The Ministry of Jesus: [Matt 1](#), [Mark 1](#), [Luke 1](#), [John 1](#)

The Final Week: [Matt 21](#), [Mark 11](#), [Luke 19](#), [John 12](#)

Trial and Crucifixion: [Matt 26](#), [Mark 14](#), [Luke 22](#), [John 18](#)

Resurrection and Ascension: [Matt 28](#), [Mark 16](#), [Luke 24](#), [John 20](#)

Pentecost and the Holy Spirit: [Acts 1](#)

Spreading the Gospel: [Acts 1](#)

Paul's Epistles: [Rom 1](#), [1 Cor 1](#), [2 Cor 1](#), [Gal 1](#), [Eph 1](#), [Phil 1](#), [Col 1](#),
[1 Thess 1](#), [2 Thess 1](#), [1 Tim 1](#), [2 Tim 1](#), [Titus 1](#)

The General Epistles: [Heb 1](#), [Jas 1](#), [1 Pet 1](#), [2 Pet 1](#), [1 John 1](#), [2 John 1](#),
[3 John 1](#), [Jude 1](#)

Understanding Revelation: [Rev 1](#)

Judgment and Hell: [Rev 21](#)

New Heaven and New Earth: [Rev 21](#)

Living Out Your Faith: [1 Cor 13](#)