

READING PROGRAM – INTERMEDIATE

Themes to Follow in God's Word

Ephesians 3:3, 4:

“That by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief.

*And by referring to this, when you read
you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ.”*

One of the chief hindrances to an effective reading program is a lack of purpose or sense of direction. The volume of information is almost staggering, and most disciples, having read four or five chapters, look back and think, “What have I just read?” realizing that they could just as well read the material over than to go on.

Making a list of specific themes within the disciplined reading program goes a long way in solving this problem. Paul says in Ephesians 3:3, 4: *“That by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. And by referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ.”* In other words, by keeping in mind certain facts or following certain themes, a greater insight in the word can result.

Of courses this is not true for everyone. I have a close friend, “Rob” who is a pilot for a major international airline. All Rob needs to have to keep him going is a check sheet he has made to check off the chapters and books of the Bible as he reads them. You may be the same way and we have provided such a tool just for you. Others though may need or occasionally want to use systems beyond a simple check list. If that is true for you then perhaps following the themes which have been provided below may be of help.

The following list of themes of course would not be done all in one sitting. This list should provide you, as it has me, years of enjoyable Bible reading and meditations. The list originated when my mother complained to me of not being able to concentrate when reading through her Bible. She asked me if I could give her a list of themes to follow for each book. In response to this I spent a year reading through the Bible looking for themes which would aid her and other believers in maintaining a sense of continuity, alertness and direction when reading through the Word of God. In following the themes, the disciple can make notes in a notebook as he reads or mark in his Bible with a pen or highlighter.

The list presented is by no means exhaustive and was derived by my reading the word and jotting down themes which seemed to be prominent in the book as I read through the Bible. As you read you may find other themes as well which would serve equally well for the purpose. Each year I read through the Bible and before beginning settle on a few overall doctrinal themes to search out. The themes which I generally follow are those on which I wish to speak with authority or on that which God is dealing with in my life. It is my hope that this will enable you to spend more time enjoying God's Word, and in so doing, spending more time enjoying God.

Reading Program Themes

- I. Old Testament
 - A. Themes to follow through the entire Old Testament
 - 1. Characters and personalities
 - 2. Prayer
 - 3. Giving, Liberality and Hospitality
 - 4. Leadership
 - 5. Obedience
 - 6. Attributes of God
 - B. By section
 - 1. Pentateuch
 - a. Words
 - Obey

- Holy
- Blood
- Glory
- Sacrifice
- Atonement
- Soothing Aroma
- Serve, Service
- b. Themes
 - Role and Care of the Levites
 - Moral Issues
 - Rebellion
 - The Death Penalty
 - Prosperity and Blessings
- 2. Poetic Books
 - Enjoyment of Life
 - Godly Man
 - Wicked Man
 - Prayer
 - Wages of sin
- 3. Major Prophets
 - Evil Shepherds
 - Evil Princes
 - Evil Prophets
 - Evil Priests
 - Reaping What You Sow
- 4. Minor Prophets
 - Sow and Reap
 - Unfaithfulness
 - Pride
 - Prophet, Priest and Leaders Who Lead Astray
- 5. Major and Minor Prophets
 - Hypocrisy
 - Unfaithfulness
 - Pride/Rebellion
 - Immorality
 - Obedience
 - Ungrateful Heart
 - Judgment of Sin
 - Coming Messiah
 - Anger/Wrath of God
 - Qualification for Leader, Priest, Prophet

C. By Book

1. Genesis
 - a. Actions attributed to God
 - b. Character Traits of Godly Men
 - c. God Speaking to, Commanding, and Leading Men
 - d. Recognition or Testing of Men of God
2. Exodus
 - a. Grumbling and Moses' Response
 - b. Rebellion
 - c. Spiritual Leadership

- d. Atone
- e. Redeem
- f. Prayer
- g. Teaching
- 3. Leviticus
 - a. Consecration
 - b. Sanctification
 - c. Feasts and Fast
 - d. Care of Levites and Priests
 - e. Sacrifices and Offerings
 - f. Forbidden by the Law
 - g. Death Penalty
 - h. What the Law Defines as Immoral
 - i. What is Still Forbidden
 - j. What is Now Allowed
- 4. Numbers and Deuteronomy
 - a. Pride
 - b. God Speaking to Moses
 - c. Man Speaking to God
 - d. Obedience
 - e. Pride
 - f. Idolatry
 - g. Discipline of God
- 5. Joshua
 - a. Obedience
 - b. Prayer
 - c. God interacting with Man
 - d. God Fighting and Working on Behalf of Man
- 6. Judges
 - a. Sin, Judgment, Repentance, Deliverance Cycle
 - b. Prayer
 - c. Wages of Sin
 - d. Fruits of Independence – No Leadership
- 7. Ruth
 - a. Character of the Godly Woman
 - b. Unseen Hand of God
- 8. 1 Samuel
 - a. Prayer
 - b. Characteristics of Godly Man
 - c. Good and Bad Leadership Traits
- 9. 2 Samuel
 - a. Prayer
 - b. Leadership
 - c. Keys to Victory
- 10. 1 Kings
 - a. Obedience
 - b. Prayer
 - c. Wages of Sin
 - d. Chart out the Divided Kingdom by Kings
 - e. Attributes of a Prophet of God
- 11. 2 Kings
 - a. King Chart: Make a flow chart of the kings and indicate if they are good or evil.

- b. Attributes of a Prophet of God
12. 1 Chronicles
 - a. Prayer
 - b. Attributes of David
 - c. Leadership
 13. 2 Chronicles
 - a. Prayer
 - b. Leadership
 - c. Attributes of Good and Bad Kings
 - d. Wages of Sins
 - e. King Chart: Make a flow chart of the kings and indicate if they are good or evil.
 - f. Secrets to Success
 14. Ezra
 - a. Giving
 - b. Prayer
 - c. Leadership
 15. Nehemiah
 - a. Prayer
 - b. Leadership
 - c. Giving
 16. Esther
 - a. The Invisible Hand of God
 - b. Obedience
 - c. Teachability
 17. Job
 - a. Suffering
 - b. Positive attitude
 - c. Half – Truths
 18. Psalms
 - a. Attributes of God (words)
 - b. Adoration
 - c. Confession
 - d. Thanksgiving
 - e. Supplication
 - f. Intercession
 - g. The Word
 - h. Evangelism
 19. Proverbs
 - a. Honesty/Integrity
 - b. Purity
 - c. Pride/Humility
 - d. Wealth
 - e. Teachability/ Conformity
 - f. Work
 - g. Wise Man
 - h. Foolish Man
 20. Ecclesiastes
 - a. The Enjoyment of Life
 - b. The manifestation of sin

21. Isaiah
 - a. Salvation Themes
 - b. Attributes of God
22. Jeremiah
 - a. Suffering
 - b. Hypocrisy
23. Lamentations
 - a. Cause of Grief
24. Ezekiel
 - a. "Then They Will Know"
 - b. "Thus Says the Lord"
 - c. Wrath
25. Daniel
 - a. Rewards of Righteousness
 - b. Living in the World
26. Hosea
 - a. God's Hatred of Idolatry and Unfaithfulness
 - b. Attributes of Spiritual Harlotry
 - c. Results of Spiritual Harlotry
 - d. Reap What you Sow
27. Joel
 - a. Repentance
 - b. Day of the Lord
28. Amos
 - a. Fruits of the Stubborn Heart
 - b. God Seeks Man/Man Fails to Respond
29. Micah
 - a. God's Judgment Cleanses Sin
 - b. Emptiness of Offerings Without Life
 - c. God the Creator and Sustainer of Life
30. Malachi
 - a. Giving to God

II. New Testament

A. Themes to follow through the entire New Testament

1. What claims are made concerning Jesus
2. Word
3. Prayer
4. Witnessing
5. Fellowship
6. Moral Absolutes
7. Heart For God
8. Heart for People

B. Gospels and Acts

1. Questions Disciples Ask
2. Prophecies and Fulfillment
3. Scripture Quoted
4. Fear
5. Miracles
6. Christ Talks of His Death
7. Evangelism

8. Persecution
9. Fellowship
10. Salvation

C. Epistles

1. The state of the lost
2. The Sufficiency of Christ
3. The Authority of God's Word
4. Sovereignty of God
5. Pride and Humility
6. Sin
7. Persecution and Suffering
8. Leadership – Good and Bad