

Reading the New Testament in 40 Days

There are many possible ways of reading the whole New Testament (or the entire Bible) in a certain amount of time (one year, two years, etc.). Some plans suggest reading the Bible in canonical order (from the Book of Genesis all the way to the Book of Revelation). For people who might want to read the whole New Testament more quickly (in just 40 days, reading about 30 minutes daily), here is a plan that intersperses the four Gospels with the Epistles and other books of the New Testament.

Day	Biblical Texts	Day	Biblical Texts
1	Mark 1-4	21	Luke 8-11
2	Mark 5-8	22	Luke 12-16
3	Mark 9-12	23	Luke 17-21
4	Mark 13-16	24	Luke 22-24
5	1 & 2 Thessalonians	25	Acts 1-6
6	Galatians	26	Acts 7-10
7	Philippians & Colossians	27	Acts 11-16
8	Philemon & Ephesians	28	Acts 17-22
9	Matthew 1-7	29	Acts 23-28
10	Matthew 8-12	30	1 & 2 Timothy & Titus
11	Matthew 13-18	31	Hebrews 1-10
12	Matthew 19-24	32	Hebrews 11-13 & James
13	Matthew 25-28	33	John 1-5
14	1 Corinthians 1-9	34	John 6-10
15	1 Corinthians 10-16	35	John 11-16
16	2 Corinthians 1-13	36	John 17-21
17	Romans 1-8	37	1 & 2 & 3 John & Jude
18	Romans 9-16	38	1 & 2 Peter
19	Luke 1-3	39	Revelation 1-11
20	Luke 4-7	40	Revelation 12-22

Notes:

- Each day includes about 200 verses of the NT, although the daily totals range from as few as 136 to as many as 266 verses.
- Chapter numbers are given after names of longer books; if no chapter numbers are listed, then the whole book is to be read.
- Most daily selections can be read in about 20-30 minutes, or slightly more or less, depending on your own reading speed.
- This plan for reading the NT can be used at any time, but may be especially appropriate in Lent or during the Easter Season.
- You would do well to take some extra time each day to reflect on what you have read, on its meaning and application for you:
- What "good news" is God revealing to us in this text? What is God saying to me personally? How can I apply this in my life?
- Aside from "reading" these texts in a Bible, you could also "listen" to them daily using audio CDs, the Internet, or Podcasts.
- See also my introduction on [Ways of Reading the Bible](#), which includes other plans for daily Bible reading and an introduction to *Lectio Divina*.