



## Let's Read! January, 2013 Hosted by Open Doors

\* Book of Genesis

\* Psalms (chapters 1-23)

\* Proverbs (chapters 1-3)

\* Book of Matthew

Welcome to our Bible Read-Thru for 2013!

Those of you who are reading the Hebrew Scriptures will start with Genesis: *In the beginning...*

Those reading the Psalms will start with *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly...*

Proverb readers will open to *The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, King of Israel...*

New Testament readers begin with Matthew: *The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.*

Now is the time to give some thought to how you'll approach the reading each time you open your Bible: prayerfully... reverently... expectantly... enthusiastically... gratefully?

Also consider why you're reading: to learn more about your and/or others' faith? to know more about the Bible—its background and current relevancy? to gain insight... wisdom... inspiration? to find comfort... peace... closeness to God?

And plan what to do when something you read speaks your name or touches your heart/life in a special way: underline, list and/or learn meaningful Scriptures by heart... make margin notes in your Bible... journal related thoughts/feelings... share questions/concerns/understandings with other readers via the feedback tab on our [www.OpenDoorsAGF.org](http://www.OpenDoorsAGF.org) website... discuss readings with a friend, group or pastor... change your lifestyle accordingly... praise the Lord for this awesome adventure and invite others to join us?

No matter how, why, when, where, or what part(s) of the Bible you'll be reading—whether you're a scholar who's read through the Bible many times or a novice anxious to read it for the first time (or somewhere in between)—there will be plenty to learn and much to gain as God's Spirit takes you from your present status to new and glorious heights via the written Word. Please share what you know already and what you learn as we go along—via our feedback tab.

January's readings are especially enjoyable and powerful. For example,

\* Genesis starts the five most important Books in the Hebrew Scriptures; they're called the Books of Moses, the Torah, and/or the Pentateuch, and are the basis of the Judeo-Christian faiths. In Genesis we'll read about creation, Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (whose name was changed to Israel and whose dozen sons became the 12 tribes of Israel). The story of one of the sons, Joseph, is among the best known and most fascinating biblical stories.

\* the Psalms are songs/hymns, many written by David, and are filled with great emotion. For the full effect we should read them aloud or put them to music. Many people cite the Psalms as their favorite part of the Hebrew Scriptures. Psalm 23 is the most loved and recited: *The Lord is my shepherd...*

\* the Proverbs are a collection of wise sayings. You'll enjoy reading these and seeing how many are still apropos to our present-day lives. There are just 31 chapters, so the monthly readings are short. Some people love them so much they read a chapter a day, thereby going through the entire Book each and every month.

\* Matthew is the ideal link between the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament, where we find descriptions of Jesus from different perspectives—plus the Acts of the Apostles who started the first churches, letters (Epistles) from those who spread the Good News about the coming of the Savior, and John's Revelation while in exile on Patmos Island. Matthew makes many references to the Hebrew Scriptures and how they are fulfilled in Christ.

Look for a loving, forgiving God who reaches out to his people, and the coming of the predicted Messiah.