

DAILY BREAD

BEING A CALENDAR FOR READING THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD IN A YEAR

"Thy Word is very pure; therefore Thy servant loveth it."

MY DEAR FLOCK, -- The approach of another year stirs up within me new desires for your salvation, and for the growth of those of you who are saved. "God is my record how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ." What the coming year is to bring forth who can tell? There is plainly a weight lying on the spirits of all good men, and a looking for some strange work of judgment upon this land. There is a need now to ask that solemn question -- "If in the land of peace wherein thou trustedst, they wearied thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?"

Those believers will stand firmest who have no dependence upon self or upon creatures, but upon Jehovah our Righteousness. We must be driven more to our Bibles, and to the mercy-seat, if we are to stand in the evil day. Then we shall be able to say, like David -- "The proud have had me greatly in derision, yet have I not declined from Thy law." "Princes have persecuted me without a cause, but my heart standeth in awe of Thy word."

It has long been in my mind to prepare a scheme of Scripture reading, in which as many as were made willing by God might agree, so that the whole Bible might be read once by you in the year, and all might be feeding in the same portion of the green pasture at the same time.

I am quite aware that such a plan is accompanied with many

DANGERS.

- (1.) *Formality.* -- We are such weak creatures that any regularly returning duty is apt to degenerate into a lifeless form. The tendency of reading the Word by a fixed rule may, in some minds, be to create this skeleton religion. This is to be the peculiar sin of the last days -- "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." Guard against this. Let the calendar perish rather than this rust eat up your souls.
- (2.) *Self-righteousness.* -- Some, when they have devoted their set time to reading of the Word, and accomplished their prescribed portion, may be tempted to look at themselves with self-complacency. Many, I am persuaded, are living without any Divine work on their soul -- unpardoned and unsanctified, and ready to perish -- who spend their appointed times in secret and family devotion. This is going to hell with a lie in their right hand.
- (3.) *Careless reading.* -- Few *tremble* at the Word of God. Few, in reading it, hear the voice of Jehovah, which is full of majesty. Some, by having so large a portion, may be tempted to weary of it, as Israel did of the daily manna, saying -- "Our soul loatheth this light bread;" and to read it in a slight and careless manner. This would be fearfully provoking to God. Take heed lest that word be true of you -- "Ye said, also, Behold what a weariness is it! and ye have snuffed at it, saith the Lord of Hosts."

(4.) *A yoke to heavy to bear.* Some may engage in reading with alacrity for a time, and afterwards feel it a burden, grievous to be borne. They may find conscience dragging them through the appointed task without any relish of the heavenly food. If this be the case with any, throw aside the fetter, and feed at liberty in the sweet garden of God. My desire is not to cast a snare upon you, but to be a helper of your joy.

If there be so many dangers, why propose such a scheme at all? To this I answer, that the best things are accompanied with danger, as the fairest flowers are often gathered in the clefts of some dangerous precipice. Let us weigh

THE ADVANTAGES.

(1.) *The whole Bible will be read through in an orderly manner in the course of a year.* – The Old Testament once, the New Testament and Psalms twice. I fear many of you never read the whole Bible; and yet it is all equally Divine, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect.” If we pass over some parts of Scripture, we shall be incomplete Christians.

(2.) *Time will not be wasted in choosing what portions to read.* Often believers are at a loss to determine towards which part of the mountains of spices they should bend their steps. Here the question will be solved at once in a very simple manner.

(3.) *Parents will have a regular subject upon which to examine their children and servants.* – It is much to be desired that family worship were made more instructive than it generally is. The mere reading of the chapter is often too like water spilt on the ground. Let it be read by every member of the family before-hand, and then the meaning and application drawn out by simple question and answer. The calendar will be helpful in this. Friends, also, when they meet, will have a subject for profitable conversation in the portions read that day. The meaning of difficult passages may be inquired from the more judicious and ripe Christians, and the fragrance of simpler Scriptures spread abroad.

(4.) *The pastor will know in what part of the pasture the flock are feeding.* – He will thus be enabled to speak more suitably to them on the Sabbath; and both pastor and elders will be able to drop a word of light and comfort in visiting from house to house, which will be more readily responded to.

(5.) *The sweet bond of Christian love and unity will be strengthened.* – We shall be often led to think of those dear brothers and sisters in the Lord, here and elsewhere, who agree to join with us in reading those portions. We shall oftener be led to agree on earth, touching something we shall ask of God. We shall pray over the same promises, mourn over the same confessions, praise God in the same songs, and be nourished by the same words of eternal life.

Family				Date	Secret			
Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter		Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter
Genesis	1	Matthew	1	1	Ezra	1	Acts	1
Genesis	2	Matthew	2	2	Ezra	2	Acts	2
Genesis	3	Matthew	3	3	Ezra	3	Acts	3
Genesis	4	Matthew	4	4	Ezra	4	Acts	4
Genesis	5	Matthew	5	5	Ezra	5	Acts	5
Genesis	6	Matthew	6	6	Ezra	6	Acts	6
Genesis	7	Matthew	7	7	Ezra	7	Acts	7
Genesis	8	Matthew	8	8	Ezra	8	Acts	8
Genesis	9 , 10	Matthew	9	9	Ezra	9	Acts	9
Genesis	11	Matthew	10	10	Ezra	10	Acts	10
Genesis	12	Matthew	11	11	Nehemiah	1	Acts	11
Genesis	13	Matthew	12	12	Nehemiah	2	Acts	12
Genesis	14	Matthew	13	13	Nehemiah	3	Acts	13
Genesis	15	Matthew	14	14	Nehemiah	4	Acts	14
Genesis	16	Matthew	15	15	Nehemiah	5	Acts	15
Genesis	17	Matthew	16	16	Nehemiah	6	Acts	16
Genesis	18	Matthew	17	17	Nehemiah	7	Acts	17
Genesis	19	Matthew	18	18	Nehemiah	8	Acts	18
Genesis	20	Matthew	19	19	Nehemiah	9	Acts	19
Genesis	21	Matthew	20	20	Nehemiah	10	Acts	20
Genesis	22	Matthew	21	21	Nehemiah	11	Acts	21
Genesis	23	Matthew	22	22	Nehemiah	12	Acts	22
Genesis	24	Matthew	23	23	Nehemiah	13	Acts	23
Genesis	25	Matthew	24	24	Esther	1	Acts	24
Genesis	26	Matthew	25	25	Esther	2	Acts	25
Genesis	27	Matthew	26	26	Esther	3	Acts	26
Genesis	28	Matthew	27	27	Esther	4	Acts	27
Genesis	29	Matthew	28	28	Esther	5	Acts	28
Genesis	30	Mark	1	29	Esther	6	Romans	1
Genesis	31	Mark	2	30	Esther	7	Romans	2
Genesis	32	Mark	3	31	Esther	8	Romans	3

Family				Date	Secret			
Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter		Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter
Exodus	12:22-51	Luke	15	1	Job	30	1 Corinthians	16
Exodus	13	Luke	16	2	Job	31	2 Corinthians	1
Exodus	14	Luke	17	3	Job	32	2 Corinthians	2
Exodus	15	Luke	18	4	Job	33	2 Corinthians	3
Exodus	16	Luke	19	5	Job	34	2 Corinthians	4
Exodus	17	Luke	20	6	Job	35	2 Corinthians	1
Exodus	18	Luke	21	7	Job	36	2 Corinthians	6
Exodus	19	Luke	22	8	Job	37	2 Corinthians	7
Exodus	20	Luke	23	9	Job	38	2 Corinthians	8
Exodus	21	Luke	24	10	Job	39	2 Corinthians	9
Exodus	22	John	1	11	Job	40	2 Corinthians	10
Exodus	23	John	2	12	Job	41	2 Corinthians	11
Exodus	24	John	3	13	Job	42	2 Corinthians	12
Exodus	25	John	4	14	Proverbs	1	2 Corinthians	13
Exodus	26	John	5	15	Proverbs	2	Galatians	1
Exodus	27	John	6	16	Proverbs	3	Galatians	2
Exodus	28	John	7	17	Proverbs	4	Galatians	3
Exodus	29	John	8	18	Proverbs	5	Galatians	4
Exodus	30	John	9	19	Proverbs	6	Galatians	5
Exodus	31	John	10	20	Proverbs	7	Galatians	6
Exodus	32	John	11	21	Proverbs	8	Ephesians	1
Exodus	33	John	12	22	Proverbs	9	Ephesians	2
Exodus	34	John	13	23	Proverbs	10	Ephesians	3
Exodus	35	John	14	24	Proverbs	11	Ephesians	4
Exodus	36	John	15	25	Proverbs	12	Ephesians	5
Exodus	37	John	16	26	Proverbs	13	Ephesians	6
Exodus	38	John	17	27	Proverbs	14	Philippians	1
Exodus	39	John	18	28	Proverbs	15	Philippians	2
Exodus	40	John	19	29	Proverbs	16	Philippians	3
Leviticus	1	John	20	30	Proverbs	17	Philippians	4
Leviticus	2 , 3	John	21	31	Proverbs	18	Colossians	1

Family				Date	Secret			
Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter		Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter
Numbers	8	Psalms	44	1	Song	6	Hebrews	6
Numbers	9	Psalms	45	2	Song	7	Hebrews	7
Numbers	10	Psalms	46 , 47	3	Song	8	Hebrews	8
Numbers	11	Psalms	48	4	Isaiah	1	Hebrews	9
Numbers	12 , 13	Psalms	49	5	Isaiah	2	Hebrews	10
Numbers	14	Psalms	50	6	Isaiah	3 , 4	Hebrews	11
Numbers	15	Psalms	51	7	Isaiah	5	Hebrews	12
Numbers	16	Psalms	52 , 53 , 54	8	Isaiah	6	Hebrews	13
Numbers	17 , 18	Psalms	55	9	Isaiah	7	James	1
Numbers	19	Psalms	56 , 57	10	Isaiah	8 , 9:1-7	James	2
Numbers	20	Psalms	58 , 59	11	Isaiah	9:7-21 , 10:1-4	James	3
Numbers	21	Psalms	60 , 61	12	Isaiah	10:5-34	James	4
Numbers	22	Psalms	62 , 63	13	Isaiah	11 , 12	James	5
Numbers	23	Psalms	64 , 65	14	Isaiah	13	1 Peter	1
Numbers	24	Psalms	66 , 67	15	Isaiah	14	1 Peter	2
Numbers	25	Psalms	68	16	Isaiah	15	1 Peter	3
Numbers	26	Psalms	69	17	Isaiah	16	1 Peter	4
Numbers	27	Psalms	70 , 71	18	Isaiah	17 , 18	1 Peter	5
Numbers	28	Psalms	72	19	Isaiah	19 , 20	2 Peter	1
Numbers	29	Psalms	73	20	Isaiah	21	2 Peter	2
Numbers	30	Psalms	74	21	Isaiah	22	2 Peter	3
Numbers	31	Psalms	75 , 76	22	Isaiah	23	1 John	1
Numbers	32	Psalms	77	23	Isaiah	24	1 John	2
Numbers	33	Psalms	78:1-37	24	Isaiah	25	1 John	3
Numbers	34	Psalms	78:38-72	25	Isaiah	26	1 John	4
Numbers	35	Psalms	79	26	Isaiah	27	1 John	5
Numbers	36	Psalms	80	27	Isaiah	28	2 John	1
Deuteronomy	1	Psalms	81 , 82	28	Isaiah	29	3 John	1
Deuteronomy	2	Psalms	83 , 84	29	Isaiah	30	Jude	1
Deuteronomy	3	Psalms	85	30	Isaiah	31	Revelation	1
Deuteronomy	4	Psalms	86 , 87	31	Isaiah	32	Revelation	2

Family				Date	Secret			
Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter		Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter
Joshua	3	Psalms	126 , 127 , 128	1	Isaiah	63	Matthew	11
Joshua	4	Psalms	129 , 130 , 131	2	Isaiah	64	Matthew	12
Joshua	5 , 6:1-5	Psalms	132 , 133 , 134	3	Isaiah	65	Matthew	13
Joshua	6:6-27	Psalms	135 , 136	4	Isaiah	66	Matthew	14
Joshua	7	Psalms	137 , 138	5	Jeremiah	1	Matthew	15
Joshua	8	Psalms	139	6	Jeremiah	2	Matthew	16
Joshua	9	Psalms	140 , 141	7	Jeremiah	3	Matthew	17
Joshua	10	Psalms	142 , 143	8	Jeremiah	4	Matthew	18
Joshua	11	Psalms	144	9	Jeremiah	5	Matthew	19
Joshua	12 , 13	Psalms	145	10	Jeremiah	6	Matthew	20
Joshua	14 , 15	Psalms	146 , 147	11	Jeremiah	7	Matthew	21
Joshua	16 , 17	Psalms	148	12	Jeremiah	8	Matthew	22
Joshua	18 , 19	Psalms	149 , 150	13	Jeremiah	9	Matthew	23
Joshua	20 , 21	Acts	1	14	Jeremiah	10	Matthew	24
Joshua	22	Acts	2	15	Jeremiah	11	Matthew	25
Joshua	23	Acts	3	16	Jeremiah	12	Matthew	26
Joshua	24	Acts	4	17	Jeremiah	13	Matthew	27
Judges	1	Acts	5	18	Jeremiah	14	Matthew	28
Judges	2	Acts	6	19	Jeremiah	15	Mark	1
Judges	3	Acts	7	20	Jeremiah	16	Mark	2
Judges	4	Acts	8	21	Jeremiah	17	Mark	3
Judges	5	Acts	9	22	Jeremiah	18	Mark	4
Judges	6	Acts	10	23	Jeremiah	19	Mark	5
Judges	7	Acts	11	24	Jeremiah	20	Mark	6
Judges	8	Acts	12	25	Jeremiah	21	Mark	7
Judges	9	Acts	13	26	Jeremiah	22	Mark	8
Judges	10 , 11:1-11	Acts	14	27	Jeremiah	23	Mark	9
Judges	11:12-40	Acts	15	28	Jeremiah	24	Mark	10
Judges	12	Acts	16	29	Jeremiah	25	Mark	11
Judges	13	Acts	17	30	Jeremiah	26	Mark	12
Judges	14	Acts	18	31	Jeremiah	27	Mark	13

Family				Date	Secret			
Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter		Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter
Judges	15	Acts	19	1	Jeremiah	28	Mark	14
Judges	16	Acts	20	2	Jeremiah	29	Mark	15
Judges	17	Acts	21	3	Jeremiah	30 , 31	Mark	16
Judges	18	Acts	22	4	Jeremiah	32	Psalms	1 , 2
Judges	19	Acts	23	5	Jeremiah	33	Psalms	3 , 4
Judges	20	Acts	24	6	Jeremiah	34	Psalms	5 , 6
Judges	21	Acts	25	7	Jeremiah	35	Psalms	7 , 8
Ruth	1	Acts	26	8	Jeremiah	36 , 45	Psalms	9
Ruth	2	Acts	27	9	Jeremiah	37	Psalms	10
Ruth	3 , 4	Acts	28	10	Jeremiah	38	Psalms	11 , 12
1 Samuel	1	Romans	1	11	Jeremiah	39	Psalms	13 , 14
1 Samuel	2	Romans	2	12	Jeremiah	40	Psalms	15 , 16
1 Samuel	3	Romans	3	13	Jeremiah	41	Psalms	17
1 Samuel	4	Romans	4	14	Jeremiah	42	Psalms	18
1 Samuel	5 , 6	Romans	5	15	Jeremiah	43	Psalms	19
1 Samuel	7 , 8	Romans	6	16	Jeremiah	44	Psalms	20 , 21
1 Samuel	9	Romans	7	17	Jeremiah	46	Psalms	22
1 Samuel	10	Romans	8	18	Jeremiah	47	Psalms	23 , 24
1 Samuel	11	Romans	9	19	Jeremiah	48	Psalms	25
1 Samuel	12	Romans	10	20	Jeremiah	49	Psalms	26 , 27
1 Samuel	13	Romans	11	21	Jeremiah	50	Psalms	28 , 29
1 Samuel	14	Romans	12	22	Jeremiah	51	Psalms	30
1 Samuel	15	Romans	13	23	Jeremiah	52	Psalms	31
1 Samuel	16	Romans	14	24	Lamentations	1	Psalms	32
1 Samuel	17	Romans	15	25	Lamentations	2	Psalms	33
1 Samuel	18	Romans	16	26	Lamentations	3	Psalms	34
1 Samuel	19	1 Corinthians	1	27	Lamentations	4	Psalms	35
1 Samuel	20	1 Corinthians	2	28	Lamentations	5	Psalms	36
1 Samuel	21 , 22	1 Corinthians	3	29	Ezekiel	1	Psalms	37
1 Samuel	23	1 Corinthians	4	30	Ezekiel	2	Psalms	38
1 Samuel	24	1 Corinthians	5	31	Ezekiel	3	Psalms	39

Family				Date	Secret			
Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter		Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter
1 Kings	3	Ephesians	1	1	Ezekiel	34	Psalms	83 , 84
1 Kings	4 , 5	Ephesians	2	2	Ezekiel	35	Psalms	85
1 Kings	6	Ephesians	3	3	Ezekiel	36	Psalms	86
1 Kings	7	Ephesians	4	4	Ezekiel	37	Psalms	87 , 88
1 Kings	8	Ephesians	5	5	Ezekiel	38	Psalms	89
1 Kings	9	Ephesians	6	6	Ezekiel	39	Psalms	90
1 Kings	10	Phillipians	1	7	Ezekiel	40	Psalms	91
1 Kings	11	Phillipians	2	8	Ezekiel	41	Psalms	92 , 93
1 Kings	12	Phillipians	3	9	Ezekiel	42	Psalms	94
1 Kings	13	Phillipians	4	10	Ezekiel	43	Psalms	95 , 96
1 Kings	14	Colossians	1	11	Ezekiel	44	Psalms	97 , 98
1 Kings	15	Colossians	2	12	Ezekiel	45	Psalms	99 , 100 , 101
1 Kings	16	Colossians	3	13	Ezekiel	46	Psalms	102
1 Kings	17	Colossians	4	14	Ezekiel	47	Psalms	103
1 Kings	18	1 Thessalonians	1	15	Ezekiel	48	Psalms	104
1 Kings	19	1 Thessalonians	2	16	Daniel	1	Psalms	105
1 Kings	20	1 Thessalonians	3	17	Daniel	2	Psalms	106
1 Kings	21	1 Thessalonians	4	18	Daniel	3	Psalms	107
1 Kings	22	1 Thessalonians	5	19	Daniel	4	Psalms	108 , 109
2 Kings	1	2 Thessalonians	1	20	Daniel	5	Psalms	110 , 111
2 Kings	2	2 Thessalonians	2	21	Daniel	6	Psalms	112 , 113
2 Kings	3	2 Thessalonians	3	22	Daniel	7	Psalms	114 , 115
2 Kings	4	1 Timothy	1	23	Daniel	8	Psalms	116
2 Kings	5	1 Timothy	2	24	Daniel	9	Psalms	117 , 118
2 Kings	6	1 Timothy	3	25	Daniel	10	Psalms	119:1-24
2 Kings	7	1 Timothy	4	26	Daniel	11	Psalms	119:25-48
2 Kings	8	1 Timothy	5	27	Daniel	12	Psalms	119:49-72
2 Kings	9	1 Timothy	6	28	Hosea	1	Psalms	119:73-96
2 Kings	10	2 Timothy	1	29	Hosea	2	Psalms	119:97-120
2 Kings	11 , 12	2 Timothy	2	30	Hosea	3 , 4	Psalms	119:121-144
2 Kings	13	2 Timothy	3	31	Hosea	5 , 6	Psalms	119:145-176

Family				Date	Secret			
Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter		Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter
1 Chronicles	29	2 Peter	3	1	Micah	6	Luke	15
2 Chronicles	1	1 John	1	2	Micah	7	Luke	16
2 Chronicles	2	1 John	2	3	Nahum	1	Luke	17
2 Chronicles	3 , 4	1 John	3	4	Nahum	2	Luke	18
2 Chronicles	5 , 6:1-11	1 John	4	5	Nahum	3	Luke	19
2 Chronicles	6:12-42	1 John	5	6	Habakkuk	1	Luke	20
2 Chronicles	7	2 John	1	7	Habakkuk	2	Luke	21
2 Chronicles	8	3 John	1	8	Habakkuk	3	Luke	22
2 Chronicles	9	Jude	1	9	Zephaniah	1	Luke	23
2 Chronicles	10	Revelation	1	10	Zephaniah	2	Luke	24
2 Chronicles	11 , 12	Revelation	2	11	Zephaniah	3	John	1
2 Chronicles	13	Revelation	3	12	Haggai	1	John	2
2 Chronicles	14 , 15	Revelation	4	13	Haggai	2	John	3
2 Chronicles	16	Revelation	5	14	Zechariah	1	John	4
2 Chronicles	17	Revelation	6	15	Zechariah	2	John	5
2 Chronicles	18	Revelation	7	16	Zechariah	3	John	6
2 Chronicles	19 , 20	Revelation	8	17	Zechariah	4	John	7
2 Chronicles	21	Revelation	9	18	Zechariah	5	John	8
2 Chronicles	22 , 23	Revelation	10	19	Zechariah	6	John	9
2 Chronicles	24	Revelation	11	20	Zechariah	7	John	10
2 Chronicles	25	Revelation	12	21	Zechariah	8	John	11
2 Chronicles	26	Revelation	13	22	Zechariah	9	John	12
2 Chronicles	27 , 28	Revelation	14	23	Zechariah	10	John	13
2 Chronicles	29	Revelation	15	24	Zechariah	11	John	14
2 Chronicles	30	Revelation	16	25	Zechariah	12 , 13:1	John	15
2 Chronicles	31	Revelation	17	26	Zechariah	13:2-9	John	16
2 Chronicles	32	Revelation	18	27	Zechariah	14	John	17
2 Chronicles	33	Revelation	19	28	Malachi	1	John	18
2 Chronicles	34	Revelation	20	29	Malachi	2	John	19
2 Chronicles	35	Revelation	21	30	Malachi	3	John	20
2 Chronicles	36	Revelation	22	31	Malachi	4	John	21

Directions for M'Cheyne's daily Bible reading calendar

- 1 **The centre column contains the day of the month.** The two first columns contain the chapter to be read in the family. The two last columns contain the portions to be read in secret.
- 2 The head of the family should previously read over the chapter indicated for the family worship and mark two or three of the most prominent verses upon which he may dwell, asking a few simple questions.
- 3 Frequently the chapter named in the calendar for family reading might be read more suitably in secret; in which case the head of the family should intimate that it be read in private, and the chapter for secret reading may be used in the family.
- 4 The metrical version of the Psalms should be read or sung through at least once in the year. It is truly an admirable translation from the Hebrew, and is frequently more correct than the prose version.
If three verses be sung at each diet of family worship, the whole Psalms will be sung through in the year.
- 5 Let the conversation at the family meals frequently turn upon the chapter read; thus every meal will be a sacrament, being sanctified by the Word and prayer.
- 6 Let our secret reading prevent the dawning of the day. Let God's voice be the first we hear in the morning. Mark two or three of the richest verses and pray over every line and word of them.
Let the marks be neatly done, never as to abuse a copy of the Bible.
- 7 In meeting believers on the street or elsewhere, when an easy opportunity offers, recur to the chapters read that morning. This will be a blessed exchange for those *idle words* which waste the soul and grieve the Holy Spirit of God.
In writing letters to those at a distance, make use of the provision of the day gathered.
- 8 Above all, use the Word as a lamp to your feet and a light to your path - your guide in perplexity, your armour in temptation, your food in times of faintness. Hear the constant cry of the great Intercessor,

"SANCTIFY THEM THROUGH THY TRUTH : THY WORD IS TRUTH."