

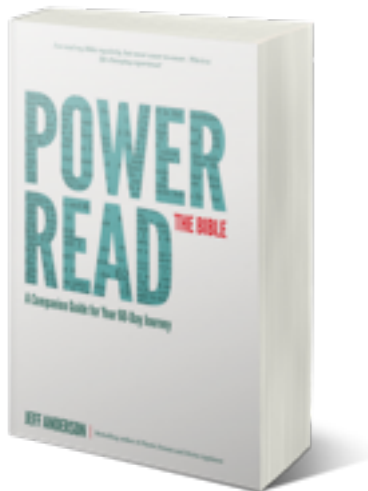
POWER READ THE BIBLE

A COMPANION GUIDE FOR YOUR 60-DAY
JOURNEY

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Taken from *Power Read the Bible - A Companion Guide for Your 60-Day Journey*
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NOTE TO FAMILY BIBLE READERS

Hey Friends!

Below are five daily insights from my book, *Power Read*. They line up with the reading of Genesis and part of Exodus.

For families seeking discussion opportunities, you might find these insights helpful.

Keep in mind, the “Scheduled Reading” noted below does not exactly match your 40% Bible plan reading schedule - but the topics still match the flow of your reading plan.

Enjoy!

Jeff

DAY 1

WHAT'S THE MOST POPULAR VERSE IN THE BIBLE?

[Scheduled Reading: Genesis 1-23]

Greetings! For Day 1 reading, I have a question to consider.

What's the most popular verse in the Bible?

When I ask a room of children this question, everyone blurts out “John 3:16!” According to Google, they may be right.

Then I ask, “what's the most popular verse in the Old Testament?” I may hear Jeremiah 29:11... or Joshua 1:9...or Proverbs 3:5. Good guesses.

While not the most popular, one of the most foundational verses in the Old Testament is Genesis 3:15.

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. (NIV)

When God cursed the serpent after Adam and Eve had sinned, He delivered a verdict and a forecast of what was to come.

There's going to be a **Seed**—Jesus—who will come from the line of Eve. The serpent (Satan) will harass the earth and strike the heel of Jesus. In the end, Jesus will crush Satan's head.

Genesis 3:15 is arguably the most common stop-by verse for Bible theologians used to explain the Bible's systematic theology. From Genesis 3:15 forward, the rest of the Bible is all about working out this verse.

And sure enough, sixty-plus generations after Adam, this Holy Spirit “Seed” is born – baby Jesus. Jesus grows up, walks the earth, dies a crucifixion death and miraculously rises again.

This resurrection event is a crushing blow to the serpent, but not the final blow. (Spoiler alert!) That comes in the book of Revelation.

Genesis 3:15 is a mind-numbing prophecy and sums up the Bible narrative in less than 30 words.

As you read today, and throughout these next 60 days, keep the big picture in mind.

DAY 2

ADAM'S BIRTHDAY

[Scheduled Reading: Genesis 24-39]

“When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth... When Seth had lived 105 years, he fathered Enosh... When Enosh had lived 90 years, he fathered Kenan...” (Genesis 5:3, 6, 9)

There's growing debate about the historical placement of Adam. How long ago was he on earth? Is Adam even real? Perhaps Adam and Eve are figurative characters?

Not in my Bible. I'm pretty much a literalist with the Bible. I take as much as I can at face value.

Why? Because of Chapters like **Genesis 5**. What appears to be a poetic rambling of “begats” (that's King James talk for “fathered”) is actually the key to the historical dating of Adam.

From Adam to Noah are ten generations. A total of 1,656 years to the flood of Noah (go ahead, add them up).

It's this passage, along with the chronology in **Genesis 11** (and other passages), that helps us to date the approximate 4,000 years of Old Testament history.

I have one simple question for us. If Adam and Eve were not real characters, what's the point of passages like Genesis 5? Perhaps so we can have confidence in the dating of Biblical history.

Can you believe we're almost through Genesis already? I know, we just started! And that's how it is with the 60-day reading journey.

DAY 3

GREAT, GREAT, GREAT, GREAT... GRANDFATHER

[Scheduled Reading: Genesis 40 – Exodus 7]

Have you ever wondered how many generations there are from Adam to Jesus Christ (aka *the Second Adam*)?

Approximately 65. That's right. It's not a thousand, or ten thousand, or a million.

As I shared yesterday, Genesis 5 gives us the ten generations from Adam to Noah. Genesis 11 gives us another ten generations to Abraham. And throughout the rest of the Bible you'll come across genealogy records charting the course of human history.

As we continue in our read, often it helps for me to ask myself, "Why is this story here?"

Often, it's simply because God is leaving us a trail of the family tree.

Like the bizarre story you just read in Genesis 38 of Judah, who went to a prostitute, who unbeknownst to him was his daughter-in-law, Tamar! (Yeah, crazy.) So why's that story there?

Maybe in keeping with God's pattern of tracking The Seed—the family tree from Adam to Christ. Jesus comes from Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah... then baby Perez, the child of Tamar.

We'll encounter other stories along the way that are in the Bible simply to account for the genealogy of Jesus Christ.

There's a cool genealogy poster available at Creation Ministries International that I have found very helpful. It's an amazing collection of records from the Bible, and the mention of every

single father in the line from Adam to Christ, and the applicable verse reference.

I highly recommend having this at home for further study and reference as you grow more familiar with the Bible. <https://usstore.creation.com/genealogy-poster>

Ok raft-mates, oars in the water. Time to paddle on.

DAY 4

KEY CONVERSATIONS

[Scheduled Reading: Exodus 8-27.]

In understanding the biblical narrative, there are **six conversations** that are considered “game changers” to working out God’s plan.

Each of these conversations sets up a new chain of events that charts the course for The Seed, the offspring of the woman (Eve) we talked about on Day 1 in **Genesis 3:15**.

Four of these six conversations unfold in the first four days of the 60-day Bible read.

Let’s take a look:

God curses the serpent (Satan). God sets in motion a new plan (Jesus will crush Satan) [**Genesis 3:15**]

God tells Noah to build an ark. God floods the earth and starts over with a new family [**Genesis 6-7**]

God covenants with Abraham that he will have a child. God births a new nation later called the Israelites [**Genesis 18 & 21**]

God commissions Moses to deliver the Israelites from slavery. God keeps the chosen nation alive and separated from pagan nations [**Exodus 3**]

The fifth and sixth events come later. God tells the prophet Nathan that He will set up the future Kingdom through King David (5th conversation); an angel explains to Mary that she will have a child, conceived by the Holy Spirit (6th conversation).

This is Jesus, The Seed referenced back in Genesis 3:15

We teach these events (often called “Bible stories”) to children in Sunday school.

But often these kids grow up without understanding how they fit into the overall Biblical plan.

While reading the Bible, we can always keep this mega-theme in mind:

There’s a battle going on between good and evil... between God and Satan. When Satan makes a move, God responds.

- Satan tempts Eve (and Adam) to sin; God issues a curse...and a plan.
- Satan perpetuates evil on earth; God responds with a flood.
- Satan revives wickedness and rebellion; God selects a father (Abraham) of a chosen nation to carry The Seed forward.
- Satan works to drive Israelites into slavery and submission to the Egyptians; God uses Moses to break them free.
- Rebellion sets in again and the twelve tribes of Israel are eventually exiled; In due time, God inserts this Holy Spirit Seed inside the virgin Mary and Jesus is born.

DAY 5

THE BIBLE'S BIG PICTURE

[Scheduled Reading: Exodus 28-Leviticus 7]

When I teach the Bible narrative to families, here's what I tell them.

The Bible is about the journey of The Seed that travels through:

- **4,000** years (see Day 2), consisting of roughly
- **sixty-five (65)** generations (see Day 3), connected by
- **six (6)** key conversations (Day 4), focused on
- **two (2)** resurrection events, which set up
- **one (1)** final climactic, redemptive event... the recreation of the heavens and earth.

For the past five days, we've been unpacking this story... piece by piece.

Having this narrative in mind will help us throughout the rest of our Bible read.

OK, we're in Leviticus now. And that means... read quickly.