

## Reading the Bible Chronologically

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by Wayne Goff

### Reading the Bible Chronologically!

Bea McDaniel recently purchased a Thomas Nelson NKJV Chronological Bible. Overall it is a very good study aid, though be careful how it treats the various ages as “epochs.” Biblically, there are three ages: patriarchal (Genesis), Mosaical (Exodus - Malachi), and gospel (New Testament). The concept of the chronological Bible is to place Bible passages together based on their chronological occurrence. For example, when you come to King David’s adultery with Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11-12), you will find Psalm 51 inserted in the same location because it is David’s penitentiary prayer to God for his sin. This is quite helpful especially for those who would not place these two passages together. Likewise, in the New Testament the book of Acts has intertwined in its historical record the various epistles written by Paul. For example, when you come to Acts 18 and the establishment of the church in Corinth, you find immediately in the chronological Bible the book of 1 Corinthians. This makes for an interesting study, and I would recommend trying it in your personal studies. I would not recommend such a study aid as your regular Bible because you might never find some passages if you’re just trying to follow along in Bible class or a sermon.

Also inserted in the study Bible are various historical events, archaeological discoveries, etc. that are pertinent to that time period, or that book, or its historical setting. This makes this a wonderful study aid for Bible class teachers. You have events, photographs, and information right at your finger tips. Yes, I can find most of the same information in my library -- after searching through my Bible encyclopedias, concordances, historical background books, etc. But this takes hours that others may not have in their study.

If you would simply like to try to your read your own Bible chronologically, then you can get a chronological plan online at [www.ewordtoday.com/year/](http://www.ewordtoday.com/year/). You can “bookmark” that site and check off your daily reading. You can even begin on February 1, and it will take you through the remainder of this year, and let you finish at the end of January, 2011. In any event, you might give it a try. I have not ever done this, but I may this year.

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