

Reading the Bible Chronologically

By Janet Berrill

I am not one who makes New Year's resolutions. Growing up it was not something that my parents ever talked about. I don't know how old I was when I first heard about people making resolutions at the beginning of the year, but it might have been in college. My observations of other people who made resolutions were that they rarely lasted a month, let alone a year. This did not inspire me to make resolutions of my own.

And yet, there is something about the start of a new year that encourages goal setting. Last year, at the start of 2024, I decided to set a goal of reading through the Bible in a year. But rather than read the Bible in the order in which the books are organized, I decided to read it in chronological order. I began in January, and I am happy to say that I finished in December. This has been a great experience, and I want to encourage you to read the Bible in chronologically if you've never done so.

Why read the Bible in chronological order verses from the way the books are laid out? I found it to be very meaningful to read through the history of the Israelites, the life of Jesus, and the early church sequentially, with the prophets, psalms, multiple story versions, and letters interwoven with the historical account. Here are a few examples:

1 and 2 Samuel tell the story of David's rise to become the King of Israel and his reign as king. David is also the author of many of the Psalms. Reading the Psalms David wrote in the different periods of his life gave an insight to how David was feeling, how he struggled, and how he trusted God to take care of him.

There is a lot of overlap between the stories in Kings and Chronicles. By reading the stories chronologically, I read both accounts back-to-back. Quite often one account offered details that the other

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Christmas Luncheon



“Reading the Bible...” continued...

story did not have. This helped give a better understanding of the story as a whole.

During the period when kings reigned, God had a lot to say to the Israelite people and to the reigning king. It was meaningful to read the words of the prophets while reading about the kings who reigned when the prophets spoke.

I got a better understanding of the flow of the history of the Israelite nation. Did you know that the last history book in the Old Testament is the book of Nehemiah? In the Bible, Nehemiah is the sixteenth book out of thirty-nine in the Old Testament, yet it is the last book that tells the history of the nation of Israel before the start of the New Testament.

In the New Testament, there are many stories that are included in more than one of the Gospel accounts. By reading them chronologically, I read the different accounts in each of the Gospels one after another and got a fuller appreciation of the event being recounted.

The book of Acts tells of the early church including the journeys of Paul. Paul is the author of many of the letters in the New Testament. Reading through those letters, as I read through the history of where Paul traveled, put things in a new perspective.

I have really enjoyed reading through the entire Bible chronologically this past year. If you have never done this, I encourage you to do so. I think the easiest way to do this would be to get a Bible that is arranged chronologically so you can just read through it. The start of a new year is a good time to set this goal for yourself, but if you miss starting in January, don't let that deter you, you can start at any time during the calendar year. I hope you will benefit as much as I have.



Happy Birthday!

Blessings to all who celebrate a birthday this month. May you feel the love, joy and presence of the Lord as we all celebrate your special day with prayers and warmest wishes.

Stephen Trahey January 14
 Kristin Westbrook January 25
 Timothy MacQueen January 26
 Gina D'Amelio January 30

New Email Address?

If you have changed your email address or are not receiving the weekly Windsor Chapel emails containing the links for the live streaming of our worship service, please send your new email address to Dorothy at chapel@windsorchapel.org, and we'll update our database. This will also enable you to participate in the live streaming of the Budget and Annual Meetings and receive regular email updates from Windsor Chapel regarding winter weather closings and other important chapel news. Please also let us know if you have changed your home address or phone numbers.

Financial Update

(Through November 30, 2024)

“The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want...”

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$113,916	\$163,167
Expense	\$118,942	\$163,167

Elders' Corner

By Tom Taylor

My dear brothers and sisters, Happy New Year! I love this time of the year. We get to look ahead, to consider and ask our Father in heaven, "What do You have for me, for us, this new year?" Our God is the Creator. It is who He is, and it is what He does. As elders we are looking to God to lead and guide us in 2025. We expect a year of transition, moving forward, continuing to search for His will, a new pastor, staying open to God's leading. How He wants to build His church, how He wants to mold us and shape us, to represent Him in 2025 in this vineyard where He has planted us.

As His church, let's be praying, asking, and expecting God to create new life in us and through us. May 2025 be a year of growth. May we see the signs of new birth. May we be filled with the Holy Spirit, knowing the Father in a greater way. May our love for Him abound, overflow and create an atmosphere of anticipation for growth and fruit that pleases Him.

"For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:6)
Yes our confidence, our hope, our faith are totally dependent on God and the grace He has given us to accomplish His will. My prayer for us is that we experience all of this in 2025. May it be a year that we are recognized as having been with Jesus. (Acts 4:13)

Know we love you all! If you have any needs, please let us know.

A little treat for you, please listen to this new song: "Christus Victor (Amen)."
You can find it on YouTube (Keith and Kristin Getty).

2025 Congregational Meetings

Budget Information Meeting

Please attend in person, or virtually, the Budget Information Meeting on Sunday, January 12, at 11:00 am, to hear about the Chapel's finances and the proposed budget for 2025. This will be the time to ask questions in preparation for the vote on the budget at the Annual Meeting. There will be a private live stream set up for this meeting with a chat feature that will enable people at home to submit questions to the moderator.

Annual Meeting

Join us on Sunday, January 26, at 11:00 am, to hear and celebrate in retrospect the events and activities of 2024, and to vote on the 2025 budget and leaders. Since a quorum of 50% of members is required, please plan to attend or submit a proxy ballot by mail or drop it off in the special ballot box on the front porch of the chapel house. There will also be a private live stream of this meeting, and the method for virtual voting and links for the live stream will be emailed.



Further Up and Further In

*Inviting dialogue to encourage growth in
and among us*



By Cindy Bills

20...25!

January, 2025. Happy New Year! While the celebration comes and goes, the new year stays with us. And so as we look into 2025, we can hardly avoid encountering the ever-popular new year's resolution thing. There is value in evaluating where we are and planning so that we can use the year in constructive ministry and growth. But as I like to say at this time of year, the performance-oriented, self-improvement perspective of many a new year's resolution is not particularly Biblical or worthwhile.

In Psalm 139, David, a man after God's own heart and King of Israel, invites the LORD to search him and know him, to reveal sin that needs attention. That is an excellent place to start. Unlike David, we have the indwelling Holy Spirit to search and know us, to convict us of sin and reveal areas in our lives that need growth. But then what? It is easy to take the popular route and to invest our focus and energy on fixing ourselves, to measure our progress by our performance, and to compare ourselves to others to measure our success. Or, we can sit back, put our feet up, and expect the Lord to change us while we expend no effort. Neither option reflects an effective, Biblical approach to change.

The path of change requires a collaborative effort between the Holy Spirit and us. Please consider with me two parts of Paul's epistles:

*For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.
Ephesians 2:8-9*

So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

Philippians 2:12-13

Paul's words encourage us to appreciate the powerfully good news of the Gospel. We have been saved by grace through faith. We cannot earn our righteousness, our rightness with God, or our salvation. We are blessed beyond measure. But beyond our salvation, we are called to pursue a life that reflects our new life in Christ, and that requires confession, repentance, and obedience on our part as we depend upon Christ's indwelling Holy Spirit.

The continuing good news is that as we seek God's best for us, He takes even our feeblest effort and does His loaves and fishes thing: Just as Christ took the meager amount of bread and fish from His disciples to feed large crowds, He takes our small steps of faith and magnifies and multiplies them. As we turn away from our self-focused desires and the counterfeit joys offered by the world, He works to conform our character to that of Christ. We are able to love well and know deep and abiding joy.

We don't have to change.... We get to change and be changed....

Please feel free to contact Cindy (609-275-8557) or cynthialbills@gmail.com to continue the dialogue....

If you have any items or information you would like to share in the newsletter, please e-mail:

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