

The only thing that matters is that you are reading God's word regularly. While that is still true with this schedule, the goal with this one is to get a better understanding of the entire story of the bible. There is no substitute for reading God's word. Keep reading! My website is at <http://graceofourlord.wordpress.com>. I encourage you to get the actual reading plan I am currently following. You can get it from the same place I do - at [this link](#). They have some great guidance for the reading plan there as well, and they have it all in both PDF and in Kindle format!

April Reading Schedule

April 2012						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Week 14	Joshua 4	Joshua 5	Joshua 6	Joshua 7	Joshua 8	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Week 15	Joshua 9	Joshua 10	Joshua 24	Judges 1	Judges 2	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Week 16	Judges 3	Judges 4	Judges 6	Judges 7	Judges 13	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Week 17	Judges 14	Judges 15	Judges 16	Ruth 1-2	Ruth 3-4	
29	30	May 1	May 2	May 3	May 4	
Week 18	1 Samuel 1	1 Sam 2	1 Sam 3	1 Sam 4	1 Sam 5-6	

Note: This bible reading schedule was not designed by me. I am simply following it this year. This schedule skips some chapters in order to accommodate the goal of "getting the big picture" of the whole Bible as the story of God's plan of salvation.

April Week 2 (Week 15) Summary

Joshua 9, 10, 24, Judges 1, and Judges 2 - Click the chapter below to go to the ESV Bible passage for that chapter and read or listen.

[Joshua 9](#) – As verse one says "the Hittites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, heard of this, they gathered together as one to fight against Joshua and Israel." The word "this" refers to the complete destruction of Ai. Word of Jericho's fall would have already reached them; and as verses 9-10 tell us, all had already heard of the defeat of King

Sihon of Heshbon (Num 21:21-26) and Og of Basham (Num 21:31-35). Indeed, they had been given more than 40 years to dread the Israelites, as verse 9 also acknowledges all that God did for them in Egypt. But the Gibeonites had a different strategy. The Lord warned them to make no covenant with any of them, as in Deuteronomy 7:1-5, where they are told that the Canaanites "would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods." Once again, Joshua failed to consult with God when he made the covenant with the Gibeonites. Their deception (verses 4-6) was well planned and convincing, however, and Joshua and the elders believed they truly were from another land far away. They would spend the rest of their days serving the Israelites, but the vow would not be rescinded. The Gibeonite cities were not attacked.

[Joshua 10](#) – When the king of Jerusalem, Adoni-zedek, learned of the fall of Ai and of the treaty of the people of Gibeon with Joshua and the people of Israel, he "faered greatly." verse 2 says that Gibeon was like a royal city - greater than Ai, and all its men were warriors. So Adoni-zedek formed an alliance with the kings of Hebron, Lachish, Jarmuth, and Eglon to attack Gibeon. So the Gibeonites appealed to Joshua for help. Though God had commanded them not to make any covenants with any of the Canaanites, now that one had been made with the Gibeonites, He made it clear in verse 8 that He would help them honor it. God threw their adversaries into a panic; and as they chased them from Beth-horon, He struck them with hailstones, killing more than the Israelites did with their swords (verses 10-11). Then the famous long day as Joshua, consulting with the Lord commanded the sun to "stand still" as they finished off their enemies (verses 12-14). Then, one by one, they took the cities of all 5 of the kings and finished off the captured kings themselves (verses 20-27). A sizable victory related in verses 40-43 secures the land to ready for the northern campaign.

[Joshua 24](#) - Joshua has divided the land between the tribes of Israel, and some years have passes. The last two chapters of Joshua are remembered as his farewell speech and final words at the covenant renewal ceremony at Shechem. This latter is laid out just like an ancient treaty or covenant between a suzerain (a superior or dominant entity) and its vassals (or subjects). Joshua's famous charge to them in verse 15 to "choose who you will serve" along with the warning in verse 20 should serve as a chilling reminder to them that God will not tolerate apostasy from them. Unfortunately, the insistence of the people that they will serve only the Lord will all too soon be forgotten by many, as we see the pattern of the judges.

[Judges 1](#) - The book of Judges opens by relating successes by the tribes of Judah and Simeon in driving out the Canaanites, but ends with verse after verse of failures to complete the task. Notice in verses 27 and following that the scripture says that they "did not drive out" the Canaanites from their tribe's allotted territories, but left them dwelling among them – in some cases using them for forced labor. This refusal to obey the Lord's command is the key to all the trouble that will follow; and God through Moses and Joshua warned them over and over that any Canaanites they leave to dwell with them would be a snare and a thorn to them, leading them

into apostasy; and that the Lord would do to them as He was doing to the Canaanites as a result (see Exo 34:10-17, Num 33:51-56, Deut 7:1-5). Notorious worshipers of Baal and other false gods, the remnant Canaanites would influence the weak of faith to do the same.

Judges 2 - In chapter 2, the apostasy of the people is made explicit, and the angel of the Lord's words to them brings fear, tears, and sacrificing. But unfortunately, not true repentance, as they return to their idol worship of Baal and Ashtaroth (verses 11-13). The repetition of the death of Joshua serves to explain the behavior that prevented them from completing the task of driving out the Canaanites. The problem was not just a lack of faith, but a lust for the wickedness and the immoral and often perverse behavior that accompanied idolatry. Verses 11-23 present a summary of the book of Judges, and verse 11 sums it up very well - "And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord." God would no longer drive the Canaanites out for them, but leave them as a snare and a test for them. Indeed, verse 15 says that "Whenever they marched out, the hand of the Lord was against them for harm, as the Lord had warned, and as the Lord had sworn to them."