

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding an open Bible. The person is wearing a grey button-down shirt. The Bible is open to a page with text. The lighting is warm and focused on the hands and the book. The background is slightly blurred.

# NEW TESTAMENT

*in a year - February*

*Daily Bible Reading Plan*

**FEB 1**

**MATTHEW 24:1-31**

**DONE**

1. What is the pattern of future history as predicted by Christ in verses 1-14? Make a list of the prominent features and see how they apply to our present age.
2. According to the teaching of these verses how should a Christian react in days of political upheaval and worldwide distress? On what can the Christian count?

**FEB 2**

**MATTHEW 24:32 – 25:13**

**DONE**

1. What truths concerning our Lord's return are unmistakably certain, and what matters are left uncertain? What, in consequence, ought the Christian's attitude to be?
2. The parable of the ten virgins (25:1-13) teaches a final division. What is the basis of that division? How can we join the company of the wise? C.f. Matt 7:21-27.

**FEB 3**

**MATTHEW 25:14-46**

**DONE**

1. Verses 14-30. Compare this parable with that in Luke 19:11-27. What is the messages underlying both parables? Can you distinguish the particular emphasis of each parable?
2. Verses 31-46. What claims does Christ make here concerning himself? How is men's final destiny determined?
3. What does this passage teach about the gravity of the sin of omission? What does the absence of good works prove?

**FEB 4**

**MATTHEW 26:1-29**

**DONE**

1. Note the difference between the prophecy of Christ in verses 1-2 and the plans of the Jewish religious leaders in verses 3-5. Whose word, in fact, prevailed and why? Cf. Acts 2:23; Ps 33:10-11.
2. In verses 6-16 consider the contrast between the action of Mary, anointing Christ, and Judas selling him. How does this demonstrate the truth of Luke 2:35b? What were the motives behind these different actions?
3. What does the phrase in verse 18, 'My time is at hand', teach us of Christ's understanding and control of the situation even at this moment? Notice the repetition of this reference to 'the hour' (verse 45). Cf. John 12:23, 27, 13:1. Note also in verse 24 the combined recognition of God's foreordained purpose and man's personal responsibility.

4. In the institution of the Lord's Supper, Matthew notes the idea of a covenant in verse 28. In what ways does this link with Exo 24:6-8 and with Jer 31:31-34? What ought drinking from such a cup to mean to us?

**FEB 5**

**MATTHEW 26:30-56**

**DONE**

1. How do these verses indicate the strength to do God's will that Christ found through his knowledge of Scripture? Consider how frequently during these last hours our Lord quoted the Old Testament. What ought we to learn from this concerning the way to face the demands of Christ's service?

2. Wherein lay the particular agony to Jesus of the experience in the garden? Why did he shrink so much from the cross? Consider this section in the light of Heb 5:7-9; 10:4-10; 1 Pet 2:24.

3. What does our Lord pinpoint as the reason for the disciples' failure in the garden? Consider in how many ways they did fail that night, and how relevant this is to our situation. Cf. what Peter wrote in 1 Peter 5:8,9.

**FEB 6**

**MATTHEW 26:57-75**

**DONE**

1. The trials of Jesus and Peter were running concurrently, but with such different results. What was Peter's failure, and what was the reason for it? Do you see any difference between this and the failure of Judas?

2. Verses 59-68. In what ways was the trial of Jesus unworthy of the name of justice? In contrast note the majesty of Jesus at this point. What would you consider the salient characteristic of his witness here?

**FEB 7**

**MATTHEW 27:1-14**

**DONE**

1. What lessons concerning the inevitable judgment upon sin are to be found in the account of the death of Judas? Can you see any sense in which we may be tempted to act like Judas in our situation, or is he unique?

2. Consider the silence of Jesus in these last hours of his life. Cf. Luke 23:9. In the light of this, read 1 Peter 2:21-23 and note the lessons for our own life and witness.

**FEB 8**

**MATTHEW 27:15-31**

**DONE**

1. In these verses the Jewish people made a fateful choice. Note especially verses 20 and 25.

It was the choice of what kind of savior they wanted. What was the result of this choice in the life of the nation?

2. In how many ways did Pilate seek to avoid a decision about Christ? Cf. Luke 23:7. Read again the question in verse 22. Is this not a question which I, too, must ask and answer?

**FEB 9**

**MATTHEW 27:32-50**

**DONE**

1. What were the real sufferings of Christ? In what way are physical, mental and spiritual sufferings indicated here?

2. What, if any, truth is there in the taunt of verses 41-43? Why did God not intervene? What is the meaning behind Christ's own sense of desertion in verse 46? Can you hold this truth with that contained in 2 Cor 5:19, 'God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ'? See also 2 Cor 5:21.

**FEB 10**

**MATTHEW 27:51-66**

**DONE**

1. What is the significance of the torn curtain of the temple (verse 51)? Cf. Heb 9:8; 10:19-23. How are the manifestations recorded in verses 52-53 linked with these truths?

2. What made Joseph of Arimathea (and Nicodemus, John 19:39) come out into the open at this late stage? Is it not at first sight strange that they should now publically associate themselves with Christ? What, in the purposes of God, did such a burial demonstrate and make possible?

**FEB 11**

**MATTHEW 28:1-20**

**DONE**

1. Note the foremost place taken by women disciples in the story of the resurrection appearances. Why should this be (cf. John 14:21)? Contrast the effect of the news of the resurrection on the disciples with the response of Christ's enemies recorded in verses 11-15. How does this prove the truth of Luke 16:30-31?

2. Verses 18-20. Note the fourfold repetition of the word 'all' in Christ's final commission. What is the threefold task given to the Christian church? Are we obeying, as we ought to do, in the light of: (a) Christ's authority, and (b) the promise of his presence?

**BOOK OF ACTS**

In one of the most exciting books of the Bible, Luke tells us how the gospel spread from Jerusalem – the capital of the Jewish world – all the way to Rome – the center of the Gentile world. He shows how Christianity emerged from within the framework of the Jewish nation to become

a universal religion. These developments are consistently traced to the continued activity of the risen and ascended Christ and the working of the Holy Spirit.

The theme of the book is found in the opening section (1:1-11) where Luke draws our attention to (a) the continued activity of Jesus, risen and ascended; (b) the apostles as the leaders Christ had chosen; (c) the Holy Spirit as the source of power; and (d) Jesus' programme of the future. These facts dominate through the book.

The book can be studied and divided in several ways: (1) using Acts 1:8 as an outline –

- I. The Spread of the Gospel in Jerusalem (1:1-8:1)
- II. The Spread of the Gospel in Judea and Samaria (8:1-12:24)
- III. The Spread of the Gospel in the Remotest Parts of the Earth (12:25-28:31)

or, (2) it can be studied following the steps of its main characters –

- I. The Ministry of Peter (1:1-5:24)
- II. The Ministry of Stephen (6:1-7:60)
- III. The Ministry of Philip (8:1-40)
- IV. The Ministry of Paul (9:1-28:31)

**FEB 12**

**ACTS 1:1-26**

**DONE**

1. What did Jesus teach his apostles about their future work before he ascended? Does this still apply to us today?
2. What is said in these verses about (a) the authority of God the Father, (b) the agency of God the Holy Spirit, and (c) the activity of Jesus, the Son of God? The whole story of this book flows from these facts. Are they transforming your life?
3. What two actions did the disciples take during this waiting period? Can you suggest reasons why?
4. Compare Judas (especially verses 16-17) with Jesus' brothers (verse 14). Cf. John 7:5. What warning and encouragement do they give you?

**FEB 13**

**ACTS 2:1-13**

**DONE**

1. What three signs were given in connection with the coming of the Spirit? See verses 2-4 and 6, 8, 11. They express in symbol what our Lord had already stated in word (cf 1:8), that the coming of the Spirit would lead to power, inspired utterance and universal testimony. What purposes of God was the Spirit thus given to fulfill?
2. What was the reaction of the disciples, the crowd and the mockers to the coming of the Holy Spirit? What do you think your reaction would have been?

**FEB 14**

**ACTS 2:14-47**

**DONE**

1. What three passages of the Old Testament does Peter quote in his address and what facts of the gospel does he support by them? What can we learn from this concerning the place and use of the Old Testament today?
2. What characteristics does Peter show in his preaching? Remember what he had been like eight weeks earlier. Wherein lay the change? Can this apply to your Christian service?
3. What twofold offer is made in verse 38, and on what condition?
4. What features marked the lives of these new believers and of the early church according to verses 42-47? How many of these are true in your experience?

**FEB 15**

**ACTS 3:1-26**

**DONE**

1. The cripple's physical cure (verses 1-11) is a picture of the spiritual truths of the gospel of salvation. Note how it shows (a) man's need, (b) the necessity of faith, (c) the importance of personal witness, (d) the assurance of salvation, (e) the miracle of salvation itself. (Peter explains how it happened in verses 12-16.) Have you been the link between Christ and a person in need as Peter was that day?
2. In addressing the people of his own nation, what sins does Peter charge against them? What promises does he make to them and on what conditions? How far are his words applicable to us who are not Jews?

**FEB 16**

**ACTS 4:1-31**

**DONE**

1. Verses 1-22. Persecution. The leaders of organized religion now openly persecute the disciples. What caused the arrest (verse 3) and the release (verse 21) of Peter and John? What verbal and visible evidence did Peter offer in their defense? Does fear of men sometimes make us silent when we ought to speak?
2. Verses 23-31. Prayer. Going back to their fellow Christians, the disciples pray. Trace the threefold reason (verses 24-28), request (verses 29-30) and the result (verse 31) found in their prayer. Could you pray with such boldness and willingness in a similar tough situation?

**FEB 17**

**ACTS 4:32-5:16**

**DONE**

In this insight into the fellowship of the early church the sincere self-sacrifice of Barnabas is compared with the hypocrisy and greed of Ananias and Sapphira.

1. In 4:32-37 what essentials of fellowship are demonstrated? See one result of them in verse 33.
2. What made the sin of Ananias and Sapphira so grave and what led to it? Why was such a divine judgment necessary? What result did it produce?
3. What example can you follow from the action of Barnabas and what danger can you avoid from the attitude of Ananias and Sapphira?

**FEB 18**

**ACTS 5:17-42**

**DONE**



1. In spite of persecution and warnings (cf. 4:17-21) the apostles continue to witness. Consider the different parts played by the angel (verse 19), the Holy Spirit (verses 20 and 32), and Gamaliel (verses 34-40) in making this possible. Do you know something of the same constraint – to speak to others about Christ?
2. Consider the four different reactions of the religious opposition (verses 17, 24, 26 and 33). Finally they beat the apostles. Cf. 1 Peter 2:20-21. Are you afraid to suffer through faithful witness?

**FEB 19**

**ACTS 14:13-36**

**DONE**



1. How do the apostles deal with the incipient troubles mentioned in 6:1? What three results followed for the widows, the Seven and the Twelve? What lessons can we learn from their handling of the situation?
2. Notice three things about Stephen's life and ministry (6:5-15): (a) the outstanding features of his life (verse 5,8); (b) the nature of the persecution against him (verses 11-13); (c) the charges laid against him (verses 13-14). Cf. Mark 14:57-58 and Acts 21:27-28. What do you consider to be the indispensable qualifications for, and the possible consequences of, faithful witness for Christ?

**FEB 20**

**ACTS 15:1-20**

**DONE**



1. Stephen's speech seeks to show (a) that God's presence with his people is not limited to a particular place or building (verses 2, 9-10, 30-34, 38, 44-49); and (b) that far from overthrowing Moses, Christ is the promised prophet like Moses of whom Moses himself spoke (verse 37).
2. God intended Joseph (verses 9-16) and Moses (verses 20-43) to deliver his people from bondage. Notice: (a) the places in which they lived, (b) the work they had to do, (c) the treatment they received from their brethren, and (d) the results they achieved. In what ways do they foreshadow the work of the Lord Jesus Christ?

3. The tragedy of Israel's spiritual blindness is described in verses 25 and 35-43. How did it manifest itself first in thought, will and desire (verse 39) and finally in action (verses 40-43)? What was its penalty? Does God still deal with his people like this?

**FEB 21**

**ACTS 7:44-8:4**

**DONE**

1. In his conclusion (7:44-53) how does Stephen teach the divine origin and yet the inadequacy of both the Tabernacle or 'tent of witness' and the temple or 'house' which Solomon built? What charges does he bring against his accusers? To what positive truths indicated or implied here ought we to pay attention?

2. Consider the likeness between Stephen and his Lord in his life, character, and in his death. What did this likeness come from? How can we follow his example? Cf. 2 Cor 3:18.

3. What were the results for the church of Stephen's witness: (a) in suffering (see 8:1, 3), and (b) in expansion (see 8:4-5; 11:19-20)? Notice what God can do through on man fully yielded to his service.

**FEB 22**

**ACTS 8:5-40**

**DONE**

1. Measure the success of Philip's ministry in Samaria by the difficulties with which he had to contend. Cf. John 4:9. To what was his success due? Cf. John 14:12; Acts 1:8. What results followed when the power of God was manifested? See verses 6, 18-21. In what ways should such a record make us take notice?

2. Simon was intellectually convinced of the truth and power of the gospel, but his heart was unchanged. How did this come to light? In what ways is it right or wrong for us to covet the power of God's Spirit?

3. Notice how much of active interest and response the Ethiopian was already showing before Philip met him. What more did he need before he was able to go 'on his way rejoicing'? What similar aids can we use in order to find God and to discover more of his truth for ourselves?

4. Learn from Philip: (a) the qualities needed in, and (b) the methods used by, one man when leading another person to trust Christ. Are you willing to be sent on such an errand (verses 26, 29)?

**FEB 23**

**ACTS 9:1-31**

**DONE**

1. What do these verses reveal of Christ's power, majesty and glory and also of his compassion, love and grace? Cf. 1 Tim 1:12-14.

2. What task was Ananias given to do? In what way is he an example of the help we can give to a recently converted person?



3. How did Paul prove his sincerity from the very beginning of his Christian life? Cf. 1 John 3:14; Acts 26:19-20.

4. Comparing verses 31 with 6:7, notice how the church had extended its boundaries. Notice, also, the two marks of healthy spiritual life that are especially mentioned in verse 31. Are these marks, together with those seen in Paul's life (question 1), found in yours?

**FEB 24**

**ACTS 9:32-42**

**DONE**



1. What evidences do you find in these verses that a widespread revival was going on at this time, and that Christ, dwelling in his people, still moved among men as Savior, Teacher, Healer and Friend? What prayer ought such a record to stir us to pray?

2. How do you picture Dorcas? What ideals of Christian character and service are exemplified in her? Can you find ways to go and be likewise?

3. Peter continues to heal in the name of the Lord Jesus. (a) Cf. also Acts 3:6-7, 16; 4:30; 5:12-16; 6:8 and 8:6-7 for other examples. (b) Compare what Peter did with the work of his Master. With verse 34, cf. Mark 2:11 and John 5:8; and with verses 40-41, cf. Mark 5:35-43. (c) Peter was experiencing what Christ had promised in John 14:12. Peter believed the promises of Christ and experienced the co-operating power of God the Spirit. The question is – Do we? And if not, why not?

**FEB 25**

**ACTS 9:43 – 10:33**

**DONE**



Verse 9:43 really belongs to the Cornelius story. Joppa was a very Jewish town, loyal to ancient tradition; Caesarea was a semi-pagan city, modeled on Rome.

1. Contrast the two towns of Joppa and Caesarea, and the two men and Cornelius. The scene is now set for the Gentiles to receive the gospel. Whose intervention was necessary to bring it about? Who ought we to thank for our reception of the gospel?

2. How did God teach new truths to both Peter and Cornelius? Notice the prejudice that had to be removed and the obedience that was shown. Are you also willing to obey God when he teaches you something new and different from your natural prejudice or preference?

**FEB 26**

**ACTS 10:34-48**

**DONE**



1. What new truth had Peter learned from the vision? See verses 34-35 and cf. verse 28. Notice that the work could not develop until Peter had learned this. Is our unwillingness to learn some divinely-revealed truth hindering God's work in and through us?

2. When Peter addressed Jews, what truths did he use to awaken their conscience (cf. 2:36

and 3:13-15)? What truth did he use now? Do you find any other indications in this address that it was spoken before a Gentile audience? What ought we to learn from these features concerning our presentation of the gospel to non-Christians?

3. Consider the character of Cornelius as revealed in this chapter. If he was such a devout man before, what did he gain by believing on Jesus? Cf. 11:13-15.

**FEB 27**

**ACTS 11:1-30**

**DONE**



1. The circumcision party (verse 2) was a conservative group in the church at Jerusalem, who insisted on the necessity of circumcision for all. Cf. 15:1, 5. Peter has to explain to them his action with Cornelius.

2. What main point does Peter emphasize when he recounts his meeting with Cornelius? Notice what Peter says about prayer; the vision and action of God; the part played by the angel and the Holy Spirit. What was the result of God's action on: (a) the Gentiles (verses 14, 17-18), (b) the circumcision party (verse 18), and (c) Peter (verses 16-17)?

3. Compare 1:5 with 11:16-17 and Eph 3:6. Peter had to learn that there was more truth in God's Word than he realized at first, and that he must not keep up social, national and religious barriers when God has removed them. Do you retain any such barriers between yourself and someone else which ought to be removed?

4. Verses 27-30. A young Gentile church helps the older church at Jerusalem. Note the signs of this church's vitality, influence and Christian spirit. Cf. 2:44-45, 4:34-37. Does your Christian faith find expression in practical giving like this?

**FEB 28**

**ACTS 12:1-24**

**DONE**



1. Sum up Herod's character from verses 1-4 and 18-23. How and why was his life abruptly ended? Are we living to the glory of God? Cf. 1 Cor 10:31.

2. Prayer was the church's weapon to free Peter. Note: (a) its character (verses 5), (b) its obstacles (verses 6-11), (c) its results (verses 12-17). Those who had prayed did not believe that what had happened was true (verses 14-15). Do you believe that intercessory prayer can do great things? Cf. 2 Cor 1:8-11 and Eph 3:20-21.