



**Reading the Bible
in a Year
—chronologically**

APRIL

JUDGES

We continue this book with yet more cycles of disobedience, military defeat, repentance, a new judge and restoration to peace and liberty. In between we have glimpses of the moral rot that had set in throughout the nation.

JUDGES		
A.	1:1 - 3:6	Explanatory prologue: failure through compromise
B.	3:7 - 16:31	Six cycles - six judges
C.	17:1 - 21:25	Illustrative epilogue

The anarchic situation is summarised in the book's closing statement: 'Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.'

RUTH		
A.	Chapter 1	From Bethlehem to Moab and back
B.	2:1 - 4:17	The Boaz-Ruth relationship
C.	4:18-22	Genealogy of David

RUTH

A delightful love story set in the period of the judges.

It shows that, at a time when the state of the nation at large was decadent and ungodly, there were pockets of individual virtue and godliness.

Ruth, a Gentile, became an ancestress of the Messiah, foreshadowing the extension of the gospel to Gentiles.

SAMUEL, CHRONICLES, PSALMS

Here we begin to find a major *mixing* of books to maintain our chronological approach, with *1 & 2 Samuel* providing the base-line.

1 SAMUEL		
A.	Chapters 1-7	SAMUEL: the last of the judges
B.	Chapters 8-15	SAUL: the first of the kings
C.	Chapters 16-31	DAVID: the anointed successor

1 Samuel is the book that introduces the monarchy, and majors on *King David*. He, of course, wrote many of the *Psalms*, and these are fitted in around the historical events during which they were written.

1 CHRONICLES		
A.	Chapters 1-9	Israel's main genealogies
B.	Chapters 10-29	David's reign from Jerusalem

The books of *1 & 2 Chronicles* cover much the same ground as the books of Samuel and Kings, and we see parallel passages slotted in here.

Chronicles, however, was written for a different readership (the returning exiles) and with a different aim (to emphasise the continuity of the royal line of David and the Temple worship), which accounts for the alternative slant on some of the material.