

Old Testament NLT Chronological Bible in a Year Devotionals

January 1 — In the Beginning

READ

Genesis 1-3

Genesis 1:1, *"In the beginning God created..."*

Genesis 1:31, *"God saw all that He had made, and it was very good."*

THINK

For just a moment, clear whatever surface is in front of you. Now, using the "nothing" in front of you, create something. Anything. Go on. Try it.

You can't do it, can you? No one can. Except for God. And that is just what He did!

As we look around, everything in sight comes from one source — God. He began with nothing, yet He created everything! The evidence is overwhelming. But God didn't stop with just creating the world. He took the time to intimately, intricately, and intentionally create you to fulfill a specific purpose as well! Keep that in mind today, remembering that you are a one-of-a-kind, unique masterpiece designed by the Creator of the universe!

PRAY

God, I know that You have created me intimately, intricately, and intentionally. Thank you! Give me a new perspective on why I am here and grant me the ability to accomplish Your unique plans and purpose for today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

January 2 — Up to the Task?

READ

Genesis 4:1-6:22

Genesis 6:13-15, *"So God said to Noah, 'I have decided to destroy all living creatures, for they have filled the earth with violence ... Build a large boat out of cypress wood ... 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high.'"*

Genesis 6:22, *"So Noah did everything exactly as God had commanded him."*

THINK

Imagine knowing nothing about boats, per se. You've never operated one, and you definitely know nothing about the construction or mechanics involved. Then, someone commissions you to build one. But not just any boat — a massive ark to overcome a great flood. Not only that, but you are to load up your family and two of every animal on earth because the rest of creation is going to perish. Would you be up to the task? Oh, and by the way, it will take you 120 years to complete. Yikes!

This was God's task to Noah, who stepped up to the plate in a massive way. He trusted God for every detail — including meticulous, mind-blowing building plans. Despite the ridicule and scorn he faced, the seemingly insurmountable workload, and the time involved, Noah trusted God and was greatly rewarded for his obedience.

Keep Noah's example in mind today. No matter how small or big the task, trust and obey God. And, remember, when we aim to please God, no one else's opinion matters!

PRAY

God, Please help me to have Noah's tenacity and willingness to trust and obey. I want a faith like his and the desire to please You regardless of the odds and unfavorable opinions of others. Amen.

January 3 — Everywhere Under the Rainbow

READ

Genesis 7:1-10:32
1 Chronicles 1:1-23

Genesis 9:12-15, *“Then God said, I am giving you a sign of My covenant with you, and with all living creatures, for all generations to come. I have placed My rainbow in the clouds. ... When I send clouds over the earth, the rainbow will appear in the clouds ... Never again will the floodwaters destroy all life.”*

THINK

Imagine being on a huge ark with only your closest family and two of every animal for 377 days as floodwaters covered the earth, killing off the rest of all living creatures! It’s difficult to conceive what life was really like for Noah and his family during that time. Although the ark was large, there were only so many places to go for a little alone time! Nonetheless, Noah’s family obeyed God and survived to replenish the human race. But would God someday judge them again?

God is faithful. Within His love, He made a covenant with Noah to never destroy all life by flood. His rainbow is a sign of that covenant. How beautiful is that! So, the next time the storms of life rage and the end seems nowhere in sight, remember the rainbow — God’s sign of peace, promise, and new beginnings.

PRAY

Heavenly Father, Thank You for being a God of peace, promise, and new beginnings. Every time I see a rainbow, I, too, will be reminded of this. I cherish Your faithfulness and lovingkindness towards me. Amen.

January 4 — What's Your Response?

READ

Genesis 11:1-14:24

Genesis 12:1, *"The Lord had said to Abram, 'Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you.'"*

Genesis 12:2, *"I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others."*

THINK

Have you ever been asked to do something out of your comfort zone by a total stranger? More than likely, it made you nervous because there was no prior history of success with this person. Now, imagine leaving the only home you'd ever known to follow the command of someone you had never met — that is what Abraham did.

Abraham was an idol worshiper who had no prior experience with God. He was probably thinking, "Why would God choose me?" But, by faith, he followed God's command. And as we see above, God had some BIG plans in store for him.

What is God trying to do in your life that is hanging on how you respond? Because if He could use an idol worshiper, He can also use you in a big way. What's your response going to be?

PRAY

Dear God, Thank You for the great plans You have for my life. Like Abraham, help me respond to You with faith and readiness for what You have in store for my life. Amen.

January 5 — Faith Not Perfection

READ

Genesis 15:1-17:27

Genesis 15:4-6, *“Then the word of the Lord came to him ‘...Look up at the sky and count the stars — if indeed you can count them. Then He said to him, ‘So shall your offspring be. Abram believed the Lord, and He credited it to him as righteousness.’”*

THINK

At the start of anything new, there’s excitement. But eventually, in every adventure, we reach a point where we fall behind instead of moving forward. Instead of the correct choice, we make a mistake.

Abraham was a man of faith, and God made a covenant with him — promising that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars. Abraham believed the Lord and was obedient in many of the things God asked of him, but he also made mistakes along the way — he was by no means perfect! But, his mistakes didn’t disqualify him. God still used him and wanted to have a relationship with him.

Our journey in faith is no different than Abraham's, in this sense. God has promised great things to each of us who follow Him. Fortunately, God doesn’t seek our perfection, but our obedience. And when we obey, we’ll see Him work in unexpected ways!

PRAY

God, Thank You for the wonderful ways You’ve blessed me and shown Yourself to me. I know that I’m going to sometimes make mistakes, but I pray that You would grow my faith and faithfulness today. Amen.

January 6 — Hope in the Darkness

READ

Genesis 18:1-21:7

Genesis 19:15-17, *“With the coming of dawn, the angels urged Lot, saying, ‘Hurry! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away when the city is punished’ ... for the Lord was merciful to them. As soon as they had brought them out, one of them said, ‘Flee for your lives! Don’t look back, and don’t stop anywhere in the plain! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!’”*

THINK

As we watch the news, we see shocking reports of mass shootings, racial injustice, and escalating crime. Then we add a global pandemic and political strife, and it’s no wonder we feel like we are surrounded by chaos.

But we are not alone.

God calls us by name, and like Lot and his family, He invites us to leave the sins of our past and not look back. He wants us to accept His free gift of grace, flee from the entrapment of sin, and live confidently for Him. When our world seems like it’s burning down in utter destruction, it’s time to run to Jesus. We can trust Him and all His promises. He loves us unconditionally, and that is something we can count on forever.

PRAY

Dear Lord, Embrace me with Your everlasting arms and protect me during these uncertain times. I trust in You and know that You will see us through our darkest days and brightest moments. Purify my heart and fill me with Your Spirit. I want to magnify You this day and always. Amen.

January 7 — Would You Pass the Test?

READ

Genesis 21:8-24:67

Genesis 22:2, *"Take your son, your only son — yes, Isaac whom you love so much — and go to the land of Moriah. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering..."*

Genesis 22:16, *"This is what the Lord says: Because you have obeyed me and have not withheld even your son, your only son, I swear by My own name that I will certainly bless you."*

THINK

What is the hardest test you've ever taken? Hopeful medical school students must take the MCAT, an exam that lasts 7.5 hours. Other professionals also take exams that push them to the limit and evaluate whether or not they have what it takes to succeed.

Abraham's hardest test came when God asked him to sacrifice his only son — the son that he'd waited so long for. Can you imagine the pain that gripped him when God asked that of him? But instead of negotiating with God or getting angry, he obeyed and took his son to the sacrificial altar. But before he could lay a hand on Isaac, the Angel of the Lord stopped him and God provided a ram to take Isaac's place.

This is a beautiful picture of what God did for us. His only Son faced the ultimate test, and willingly laid down His life — the perfect sacrifice — on the cross so that we could have a personal relationship with our Heavenly Father. How great is that!

PRAY

God, Please help me follow in obedience like Abraham. I want to hold nothing back from You and offer everything I am for Your plan and purpose for my life. Thank you for the gift of Your Son, Jesus. Amen.