

# YOU'VE NEVER READ THIS

## OLD TESTAMENT/HEBREW BIBLE

Broad sections of the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible are omitted from what we read corporately in the church. There are some logical reasons for this, namely the length and repetition of the information they share. For example, so much of what we read in the Chronicles is repeated elsewhere. There are also some questionable reasons for leaving parts of these scriptures out of what we read together. So much of what is excluded often seems to be the violent accounts of our ancestors' lives.

**Never Read:** I Chronicles, II Chronicles, Ezra, Obadiah, and Nahum

**One Reading:** Judges 4:1-7; Song of Songs 2:8-13; Zephaniah 3:14-20; Haggai 1:15-2:9; Zechariah (9:9-12)

**Two Readings:** Lamentations (1:1-6 and 3:1-9, 19-24) and Malachi (3:1-4 and 4:1-2a)

**Worth Noting:** There is more than enough time to read all 150 Psalms in the three year Revised Common Lectionary Cycle, but we don't. There are 44 we never read.<sup>1</sup> And there are several we read every year at least once and the parts that we omit from the Psalms we do read are often the passages about God's penchant for smiting.<sup>2</sup>

Maybe not surprisingly to some, when we read Esther and Ruth, beautiful stories about women who recognize the opportunities their positions offer them to make others' lives better, all we get is a summary reading and not a fuller picture of their stories. While this glossing over of stories about women can't be overlooked, neither can the total omission of women like Dinah in Genesis 34. We don't have to try to hard to draw connections between these omissions and the Church's history of limiting women's roles within it.

## NEW TESTAMENT

While it might make sense to omit certain readings from the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible in our corporate reading through the scriptures, the New Testament is decidedly shorter than what precedes and contains so much of the message of the fulfillment of the hope for a messiah to come that it seems strange that any of it gets left out, especially as it relates to Jesus' teachings. And yet, so much of what gets left out of Jesus' teachings are the hardest stories to swallow, included those found in the passages listed below.

**Never Read:** 2 John, 3 John, and Jude

<b>Omitted Gospel Texts:</b>	<b>Matthew</b>	<b>Mark</b>	<b>Luke</b>	<b>John</b>
	1:1-	3:7-19	1:1-25, 56-67	2:23-25
	6:22-23	4:10-12	3:23-38	3:22-36
	7:13-14	8:1-26	6:12-16	5:10-47
	10:1-4	9:9-13	8:9-10	6:36-40
	11:20-24	10:32-34	10:13-16	7:1-36
	12:15-21, 38-45	11:12-14, 20-25	11:24-12:12	7:40-52
			12:41-48, 57-59	8
	13:10-17	13:14-23	13:22-30	10:31-42
	16:5-12		14:2-6	12:37-50
	20:17-19		16:14-18	15:18-25
	21:18-22		17:20-37	16:1-11
	23:13-36		18:31-34	16:16-33
	24:15-28, 45-51		19:41-44	21:1-
	28:11-20		21:20-24	

<sup>1</sup> Psalms 3, 6-7, 10-12, 18, 21, 28, 35, 38-39, 44, 53, 55-61, 64, 73-76, 83, 87, 94, 101-102, 108-110, 115, 117, 120, 129, 134-135, 140-142 & 144

<sup>2</sup> Psalms 1, 8, 16, 19, 22-24, 29, 31, 36, 40, 42-43, 45-47, 50-51, 70-72, 78, 80, 84-85, 92-93, 96-98, 103-104, 107, 113-114, 116, 118-119, 136, 138, 143 & 145-148