

Triennial Reading List

(referenced in chapter 10, [Reading the Bible with Rabbi Jesus](#))

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The following pages contain the list of triennial Torah/Haftarah readings directly from “Reading of the Bible in the Ancient Synagogue” by Charles Perrot, p 137-159, in *Mikra* (Compendia Rerum Iudiacarum ad Novum Testamentum), (Van Gorcum) 1988. It is a bit difficult to read, but it’s one of the best scholarly sources available. It represents the scholarly consensus of triennial liturgical texts found from the 3rd to 7th centuries. You’ll see that it is rough and incomplete in places, because some *haftarot* are simply unknown.

Curious readers may Google things like “triennial lectionary” and find reading lists that look nothing like this. This is because of a number of things:

First, many Conservative Jewish congregations have decided to adopt a triennial calendar which is based on the annual reading cycle. Genesis through Deuteronomy are still read every year, but only a third of a lesson is read each week, alternating by year.

Second, various Messianic groups have published lectionaries for worshippers, some that have scholarly data behind them, some that don’t. I wanted to share an untouched scholarly source so that you can see the original data, not somebody’s guesses at what an “ancient messianic lectionary” would look like.

A little history: A big problem is that a lot of shoddy, speculative research was published early on about the discovery of a “triennial lectionary,” which caused scholars to avoid the topic as a whole. What you find online often reflects theories that careful scholars have discarded, like...

...that the readings took exactly three years and coordinated with calendar months and seasons

...that the three-and-a-half-year ministry of Jesus in the Gospel of John corresponds to a triennial cycle

...that we can guess what lesson Jesus was preaching on each week

Remember, a universal, synchronized lectionary did not exist in the first century, but the tradition of reading the Torah and Prophets together was very ancient. While we cannot say that the readings below were what Jesus knew, the list is quite suggestive of how Jews were studying the Scriptures in the synagogue in his day.

Besides the Perrot chapter, see also,

Intertextuality and the *Haftarah*, Michael Fishbane, JPS Bible Commentary: *Haftarah* (New York: Jewish Publication Society), xix–xxxii.

Notes for reading:

For many readings you'll see two or three possible traditional *haftarot*, because multiple traditions existed. Often you will just see a beginning reference with an "f" after it. Scholars simply don't know how long some readings were. Likely they were two to ten lines, with some skipping allowed to put a happy ending on the reading. Each Torah portion (a "seder," rather than a "parashah,") is numbered and the starting verse is noted.

Looking below, the first reading ("seder") is Genesis 1:1-2:3. The most common *haftarah* for that reading is Isaiah 65:17-25., but some traditions also included Isaiah 66:1.

Verse references are to the Jewish Tanakh, which occasionally varies with Christian texts.

Readings of Genesis

<i>Seder Genesis</i>					
1	1:1	Isa 65:17-25 (or 66:1)	24	26:12	Isa 62:8-63:7
2	2:4	Isa 51:6-16	25	27:1	Isa 46:3-47:4; 1 Sam 4:15f.; 1 Sam 2:22f. (?)
3	3:22	Ezek 28:13-19.25			
4	5:1	Isa 29:18-24 and 30:18	26	27:28	Mich 5:6-13 (or 6:8); Hos 14:6f.
4a	6:5	Ezek 38:10f. (?)	27	28:10	Hos 12:13f.
5	6:9	Isa 54:9-17 (or 9-55:5)	28	29:31	Isa 60:15-61:3; 1 Sam 1:2f.
6	8:1	Hab 3:2-19; Jer 31:19f. (?)	29	30:22	1 Sam 1:11-22
7	8:15	Isa 42:7-15.21; Mich 7:9f. (?)	30	31:3	Jer 30:10-18 Mich 6:3f.
8	9:18	Isa 49:9-14 (or 23)	31	32:4	Obad 1-21; Isa 21:11f.
9	11:1	Zeph 3:9-17.20	32	33:18	Nah 1:12f.
10	12:1	Josh 24:3-10.14; Isa 51:1f. (?)	33	35:9	Isa 43:1-21
10a	12:10	1 Kgs 8:37f.	34	37:1	Isa 61:2-9 (or 1-9) (?)
11	14:1	Isa 41:2-13 (or 14)			Isa 32:18-33:15
12	15:1	Isa 1:1-8; 2:2-3; Isa 40:10-21.31; 2 Sam 7:17f. (?)	35	38:1	Ezek 28:25f.
			36	39:1	Isa 37:31-38:6
			36a	39:7	Isa 52:3-53:5
13	16:1	Isa 54:1-10	36b	40:1	1 Sam 2:22-30.35 (?)
14	17:1	Jer 33:25-34:5.12-13; Isa 54:10f.	37	41:1	Judg 18:1f.
15	18:1	Isa 33:17-24; 35:10; Mal 3:19f. (?)	37	41:1	Isa 29:8-14.18-19; Hag 1:1f. (?)
			38	41:38	Isa 11:2-16
16	19:1	Isa 17:14-18:7; Judg 19:16-24; 20:27	38a	42:1	Isa 55:1f.
			39	42:18	Isa 50:10-51:11
17	20:1	Isa 61:9-62:7.10-15; Judg 9:21f. (?)	40	43:14	Jer 42:12-20
			41	44:18	Josh 14:6-15; 1 Kgs 18:36; Amos 9:13f.
18	21:1	1 Sam 2:21-28	42	46:28	Zech 10:6-11:7
19	22:1	Isa 33:7-16.22; Judg. 3:1f. (?)	43	48:1	2 Kgs 13:14-23
20	24:1	Isa 51:2-11; 1 Kgs 1:1f. (?)	44	49:1	Isa 43:22-44:2.5.
			45	49:27	Zech 14:1-11
21	24:42	Isa 12:3-14:2			1 Sam 9:1-10
22	25:1	2 Sam 5:13-6:1			
23	25:19	Isa 65:23-66:8			

Readings of Exodus

Seder Exodus

46	1:1	Isa 27:6-13	59	19:6	Isa 61:6-62:4
47	3:1	Isa 40:11-19.31	60	21:1	Isa 56:1-9; 57:19;
48	4:18	Isa 55:12-56:7 (or 8)			Isa 1:26f. (?)
49	6:2	Isa 42:8-21; 52:6f.	61	22:24	Isa 48:10-20 (or 49:3)
50	7:8	Joel 3:8-4:16 (or 18)	61a	23:20	Mal 3:1f.
51	8:16	Isa 34:11-35:4 (or 10)	62	25:1	Isa 60:17-61:6 (or 9);
52	10:1	1 Sam 6:6-14			Hag 2:8f. (?)
53	11:1	Mic 7:15-20; Nah 1:7	63	26:1	Isa 66:1-11
		Hag 2:6-15.23; Isa 6:13f.	64	26:31	Ezek 16:10-19
54	12:29	Isa 21:11-22:4.15;	65	27:20	Hos 14:7- Joel 1:14;
		2 Kgs 19:35f.; Zech 14:7			Jer 11:16-12:2; 15:15-16
55	13:1	Isa 46:3-13; 39:23f.	66	29:1	Isa 61:6-62:5
55a	13:17	Isa 45:13f.	67	30:1	Mal 1:11-2:7
56	14:15	Isa 65:24-66:10	68	31:1	Isa 43:7-15 (or 21)
56c	16:4	Isa 49:11-23; Josh 24:7f.	69	32:15	2 Sam 22:10-33 (or 51)
57	16:28	Isa 58:13-59:20	69c	34:1	1 Kgs 8:9f.
58	18:1	Isa 33:13-22	70	34:27	Jer 31:32-39
			70a	35:1	Isa 58:13f. (?)
			71	37:1	1 Kgs 8:9-22
			72	38:21	Jer 30:18-31:8
			73	39:33	Isa 33:20-34:8

Readings of Leviticus

Seder Leviticus

74	1:1	Mic 6:9-7:8; Isa	88	15:25	Ezek 16:9f.; Isa 60:15f.;
		48:12-49:3; Isa			Isa 4:4f.
		43:21f. (?)	89	17:1	Isa 66:1-11
75	4:1	Ezek 18:4-17	90	18:1	Jer 10:2-10; Isa 40:18f.
76	5:1	Zech 5:3-6:14 (or 15)	91	19:1	Isa 4:3f.
76a	6:1	Mic 6:6f. (?)	92	19:23	Isa 65:22f.
77	6:12	Mal 3:4-12	93	21:1	Ezek 44:25f.
78	8:1	1 Sam 2:28-31 and	94	22:17	Isa 56:7f.
		3:5.20	95	23:9	Joel 4:13-21
79	9:1	Ezek 43:27-44:8.30	95a	23:15	Josh 5:11f.
80	10:8	Ezek 44:21-27 and 46:3	96	24:1	Hos 14:7f.; Jer 11:16f.
81	11:1	Isa 40:16f.	97	25:14	Isa 24:2-11; Isa 52:3f.
82	12:1	Isa 9:5f.; Isa 66:7f.	98	25:35	Isa 35:3-10
83	13:18	Isa 57:17f.	99	26:3	Isa 1:19f.
84	13:29	Isa 7:20f.	100	27:1	Judg 11:30f.
85	14:1	Isa 57:17f.; 2 Kgs			
		7:3f. (?); Jer 30:17f.			
86	14:33	Isa 5:8-16			
87	15:1	Hos 6:1-9; Jer 17:14f.			

Readings of Numbers

Seder Numbers

101	1:1	Hos 2:16-25; Isa 35:1f.	115	17:16	Isa 11:1-11
102	2:1	Isa 49:5f.; Isa 8:18f.	116	18:25	Isa 62:8f.; Jer 2:3f.
103	3:1	Isa 40:19f.; Isa 41:5f.; Mic 4:2f.	117	20:14	Obad 1f.
104	4:17	Isa 48:9f.; Zeph 3:7f.; Isa 56:5f.	118	22:2	Mic 7:10f.; Isa 60:3f.
105	5:11	Hos 4:14f.	119	23:10	Isa 49:23f.; Mic 7:17f.
105a	6:1	Judg 13:2f.	120	25:1	Joel 4:18f.
106	6:22	1 Kgs 8:54f.	121	25:10	Mal 2:5f.
107	7:48	Jer 31:20-32	122	26:52	Isa 57:13f.
108	8:1	Zech 4:2f.	123	27:15	Isa 40:13-26.31
109	10:1	Isa 27:13f.	124	28:26	Mal 3:4f.
110	11:16	Joel 2:16f.	125	30:2	Isa 45:23f.
110a	11:23	Isa 50:2f.; Isa 59:1f.	126	31:1	Ezek 25:14f.
111	13:1	Josh 2:1f.	127	31:25	Isa 49:24f.
112	14:11	Isa 52:5f.	128	32:1	Josh 22:8f.
113	15:1	Isa 56:7f.	129	33:1	Isa 11:16f.
114	16:1	Hos 10:2f.	130	34:1	Ezek 45:1f.
			131	35:9	Josh 20:1f.

Readings of Deuteronomy

Seder Deuteronomy

132	1:1	Zech 8:16f.; Jer 30:4f.	145	16:18	Isa 1:26f.
133	2:2	Obad 21 and Jonah 1:1f.	146	17:14	Isa 32:1f.; Isa 33:22f.
134	2:31	Josh 10:12f.; Hab 3:11f.	146a	18:14	Mic 5:11f.
		Amos 2:9f.	147	20:10	Isa 66:12f.
135	3:23	Isa 33:2f.	147a	21:10	Isa 2:4f.
135b	4:25	Jer 31:20f.	148	22:6	Isa 31:5f.
136	4:41	Josh 20:8f.	149	23:10	Isa 1:16f.
137	6:4	Zech 14:9f.	150	23:22	Isa 19:21f.
138	7:12	Isa 54:10f.	151	24:19	Hos 10:12f.
139	9:1	Josh 1:10f.	152	26:1	Ezek 44:30f.
140	10:1	1 Kgs 8:9f.	153	28:1	Isa 55:2f.; Jer 33:10f.
141	11:10	?	154	29:9	Josh 24:1f.
142	12:20	Isa 54:2f.	155	30:11	Isa 48:18f.
142b	13:2	Zech 13:5f.	156	31:14	1 Kgs 2:1f.
143	14:1	Isa 46:1f.; Isa 63:8f.	157	32:1	Isa 1:2f.
144	15:7	Isa 29:19f.; Amos 8:4f.; Isa 35:3f.	158	33:1	Josh 1:1f.