

2020



BIBLE DISCOVERY GUIDE

# JANUARY

GENESIS — LEVITICUS

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Celebrating  
30  
YEARS

# 30 Years Through the Word!

**G**lory to God! This is our 30th year going through the Bible! It all started in February 1990, when President George H.W. Bush declared at the United States National Prayer Breakfast, it was the *International Year of Bible Reading*. My father, Ron Hembree, decided to investigate whether there were any TV stations that carried a program which would invite and encourage viewers to read through the entire Bible in a year. They did not!

With that knowledge and a passion in his heart, he developed and started *Project 90*. Halfway through the year, viewers began to call and ask: *are you going to continue this next year?* Well, as they say... the rest is history! God is faithful! We have continued beyond Ron's lifetime (he went home to be with our Precious LORD and Savior in June 2010), and we will continue to carry the torch as long as we have your support and the power of God's Holy Spirit and Word.

Through the years we have witnessed firsthand God's miraculous source of growth. There is always someone, somewhere who wants to read and learn the Bible. In this way, God speaks to us. He shows Himself to be very personal, even when we may not want to hear Him.

This month we will delve into Genesis, Exodus and the first part of Leviticus. Here we will learn the heart of how God speaks through His Law, who God really is, how to treat each other, and His Gospel plan from the beginning. As we read, let's consider what God is saying and why He is saying it. I look forward to sharing this year's Guide with you!

"Every **word of God** is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him"

– PROVERBS 30:5.



Rod Hembree, Th.D, DE.



**CHARLES ROD HEMBREE** is the founding pastor of *Good Friends Fellowship* in Ontario, Canada. He brings his extensive production background and Biblical training together to serve the Body of Christ as the Executive Director of Bible Discovery.

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# How to use this Guide

Make the most of your devotional time with our Guide to the Bible in a year. Each Guide provides valuable context and theological insight to help strengthen your faith and dig deeper into the richness of God's Word every day.

In 2019, we're focusing on the theme of Discovery. The following three tips will help you make the most of your daily Bible reading and Guide:



## SPOTLIGHT ON...

In every Guide, you'll find a section with specific highlights from the perspectives of science, apologetics, history, and more. These viewpoints provide a holistic context from which to view the month's Bible reading, giving us a greater understanding of the Word, and equipping us to grasp the impact of the Bible in these important fields.



## DAILY READING

The readings are in traditional order, with a date corresponding to the Hebrew calendar. Each reading consists of a daily insight and a focus on three major takeaways from the day's Bible passage. Challenge yourself to meditate on the *Discovering The Truth* and *Today's Prayer* sections as you go about your day.



## WATCH THE DAILY SHOW

Catch our companion TV series for even more valuable insight and theological discussion, hosted daily by the Hembree family. Join Rod, Janice, Ryan and Corie in this thirty-minute devotional show that will change the way you see and read the Bible. Visit **BibleDiscoveryTv.com** to watch our show online or to find a tv channel in your area.

# The Serpent Speaks

by Ryan Hembree



Although the Bible claims to be God's word nearly 4,000 times and maintains that "every word of God proves true" (**PROVERBS 30:5 ESV**), it tells a *seemingly* farfetched story in Genesis 3 when the serpent spoke to Eve. Many scoff at the account of a 'talking snake' and even several Christians want to make this account metaphorical rather than historical<sup>1</sup>. But, perhaps, it is not so farfetched as it sounds.

Consider, for example, the many types of parrots that can mimic human speech. Certainly, if God gave this ability to parrots, then there is "very good" reason

animal talking in the Bible is Balaam's donkey and this was *only* through the power of God. And since no other place in Scripture reveals that Satan or demons have the power to cause animals to speak, "it makes more sense that the serpent could make the sounds capable of speech and Satan used this to his advantage. In essence, Satan likely used this feature that the original serpent had and caused it to say what he wanted."<sup>3</sup>

Certainly, serpents do not mimic speech today. But because of the Fall, there was a total cosmic and physiological shift, which might mean that this particular

kind of serpent did not pass along the genetic information required for speech or has since gone extinct. So let's not doubt God's word as Adam

and Eve did. Every word of God, from Genesis 1 all the way to Revelation 22, can be trusted and will ultimately "prove true". ■

## MANY SCOFF AT THE ACCOUNT OF A 'TALKING SNAKE' AND SOME CHRISTIANS WANT TO MAKE THIS ACCOUNT METAPHORICAL RATHER THAN HISTORICAL.

to believe that He also gave it to some of the other types of animals as well—especially in a perfect creation. Of course, mimicking human speech and speaking intelligibly is not the same thing, and when the serpent spoke it was clever enough to "deliver a cogent message capable of deceiving her"<sup>2</sup>. Aside from Genesis 3, the only other instance of an

### SPOTLIGHT FOOTNOTES

1. In opposition to John 8:44, Romans 5:12, 2 Corinthians 11:3, 1 Timothy 2:13-14, etc.
2. Bodie Hodge, *The Fall of Satan*, 42
3. Bodie Hodge, *The Fall of Satan*, 41

# A Hypothesis at Best

by Corie Bobecko



There is an old and persistent allegation that claims Genesis 1 and 2 represent two separate, contradictory and competing accounts of creation, written by two different authors in different time periods; usually chapter 2 is seen as the older account. The differing subject matter and the language used in the chapters are given as evidence of this claim.

Rather than being two separate and competing accounts of the way creation happened, Genesis 1 and 2 are written in the ancient style called recapitulation that was common in the ancient Near East. This style opens with a summarizing, or general account of something, then it moves in and explains that something more specifically, highlighting an area of importance.

## AS AN ANCIENT BOOK...IT IS EXTREMELY PLAUSIBLE THAT [GENESIS] UTILIZES LITERARY DEVICES AND STYLES THAT ARE NO LONGER IN USE TODAY.

This idea was given credibility and influence by the *Documentary Hypothesis*, an overall theory of how the Old Testament came to be, by a slow, gradual process of writing and editing.

One trouble that often goes overlooked by the modern reader of Genesis seems obvious when you think about it: Genesis is a very ancient book. As an ancient book, written in an ancient culture to an ancient audience, it is extremely plausible that it utilizes literary devices and styles that are no longer in use today.

Such is the case with Genesis 1 and 2.

This is exactly what is seen in Genesis 1 and 2. Genesis 1 opens with a general statement and summarizing account of the creation of the heavens and the earth,

then in Genesis 2 it moves in and gets more specific to focus in on the creation of mankind and the details about it that the author believed to be singularly important to his purpose of writing.

As for the new words used in Genesis 2 that are not in used Genesis 1, this really cannot and should not be used to point to separate authors because Genesis 2 discusses a new subject, so obviously new words will have to be used. A new style of describing human history would naturally be a very different task than describing the creation of a universe void of personality! ■



BIBLE DISCOVERY GUIDE

# JANUARY

GENESIS – LEVITICUS



# God's Provision

## GENESIS 1-2

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

God established the day of rest on the seventh day. As a part of His loving kindness toward us, God not only told us but He showed us how to rest one day in seven. God doesn't need to sleep or rest, so this action of resting was for our benefit.

As people who believe in and follow the LORD, we should remember that God has set everything in place for us to pay attention to. Many times in our world of self-driven achievement making money is one of our top priorities. But being obedient to God should be above all things, our first goal, our absolute top priority. The LORD calls us to be obedient, not wealthy. No one is called to work their heart out for money. We should rest one day in seven. This rest is to be set apart – holy – to God. It is a way of still working for what we need while keeping God as the LORD of our time and motivation – a profound truth from the beginning of time.

### DISCOVERING GOD – GENESIS 2:1-17

– 1 –

**God blessed and demonstrated rest from work: one day in seven.**

We must be obedient to God's ways and commands.

(v. 1-3)

– 2 –

**The heavens and the earth were created before God formed man.**

Perfect scientific order was in all of God's creation.

(v. 4-7)

– 3 –

**God gave a command for man to follow in the Garden.**

Are we choosing to hear and follow what God says?

(v. 8-9)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

From the beginning of time there has been a decision that each one of us must make: *do I follow God or not?* Today, that decision is still as crucial. Do we live for ourselves or do we choose to live for God? The LORD Jesus Christ is our choice today! So, then, how will we order our everyday lives?

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME EVERY DAY TO SEEK AFTER AND FOLLOW YOU!**



# Am I My Brother's Keeper?

## GENESIS 3-5

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

Today we know exactly how big the earth is, yet we can overcome its great size with our technological achievements. The world is big, yet it feels small. With all of the benefits and privileges that world travel and communication brings, it also brings an awareness of global evil, sin and sorrow.

God told both Adam, and Noah after him, to be fruitful and multiply on the earth. They did this, but as the human population grows so does sin. It's a constant reminder that we are still very much fallen humans. We need a way to overcome the sin in our lives and none of our human achievements or technological advancements can do this. I am a Christian, so I believe that Jesus Christ came and showed us the answer. If we follow Jesus with all our hearts, our lives begin to change in and through Him. In this process, we discover that how we treat each other is a big part of changing our hearts!

### DISCOVERING GOD — GENESIS 4:1-10

— 1 —

**Eve brought forth the first child, and may have thought he was the chosen one.** Let's pay attention to what God is doing, so we don't miss what He is saying! (v. 1-2)

— 2 —

**God commands us to rule over sin.** Will we follow God or will we miss the mark and sin?  
(v. 3-7)

— 3 —

**Murder is a great evil that violates God's desire for every human being.** We should work hard against all kinds of murder in our world today.  
(v. 8-10)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Clearly, murder is not a good thing. It is evil! As believers in Jesus Christ, we should always remember that it is God who created us and it is God who should end human life.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO STAND FOR LIVING AND LIFE, EVEN WHEN IT IS HARD.**

# Confined in Chaos

## GENESIS 6-9

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

Sometimes being confined can actually be a good thing. In our history there was a devastating catastrophe that killed every living creature that roamed the earth. The Bible describes the fountains of the deep breaking open – billions of tons of water violently emerging from the depths of the earth, while the skies poured rain for days on end. For forty days and forty nights the water continued its destructive onslaught; it flooded the earth, even covering up the earth's mountains. Nothing survived that wasn't confined. The eight people who did survive had followed God's detailed instructions. A man named Noah and his wife, their three sons and their wives, were kept tight and secure in a gigantic boat called an ark. Noah's family not only built the ark according to God's plans but also took animals with them in order to repopulate the earth.

### DISCOVERING GOD – GENESIS 7:1-16

– 1 –

**The LORD was King over the global flood.** He does not change; the LORD is in control of everything!

(v. 1-4)

– 2 –

**Noah did everything the LORD commanded him.** He must follow and obey the LORD at all times. He is King over all!

(v. 5-7)

– 3 –

**God keeps those who love Him in safety, even in His judgment.** There will come a time when we will be spared from the punishment on those who refuse God. (v. 8-16)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The LORD is in control of our world and our lives. It is God who keeps us safe and well, but He also gives us the ability to make decisions about our own lives that affect the way we will be preserved. Let's not be deceived, nothing goes unpunished or unattended with God.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO SEE THE FLOOD FOR WHAT IT WAS, AND TO UNDERSTAND THAT YOUR WILL PREVAILS IN THE FUTURE.**

# Knowing God

## GENESIS 10–13

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

In our Scripture reading today, we discover how God works with specific individuals. A man named *Abram* is introduced to the Bible explorer, and we learn that the LORD our God chooses to work with those who want to work with Him. When we make the decision to work with God, He helps us.

Today, God calls all of us to His salvation but there are many distractions, and often people don't even know that God exists. This is where we come in – those of us who know God and have already answered His call – we are to tell others about Him. When we do, it is vital to keep our proper mission in mind; our hearts must be open and ready to represent God well. As we keep our hearts close to God, He makes this possible. When Abram learned that the LORD wanted to bless all people through him, he actually heard the gospel announced to him in advance ([GALATIANS 3:8](#)).

### DISCOVERING GOD – GENESIS 12:1–9

– 1 –

**God has made us blessed, if we know Him through Jesus Christ.**

Others also will be blessed when they see the LORD through us.

(v. 1–3)

– 2 –

**Age is irrelevant when we meet the LORD.** God's blessings are timeless!

(v. 4–7)

– 3 –

**Abram called on the name of God.** When we call on the name of God, we not only recognize Him for who He is, but we move to respond and seek Him.

(v. 8–9)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

We must continually call on the name of God. His name is unique and powerful. If we recognize that name, we are blessed and those near us will also be blessed by God. The LORD is powerful and helps us overcome the evil that has overcome us – sin.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO MOVE IN YOUR DIRECTION EVERY DAY.**

# Warfare

## GENESIS 14–17

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

Abram lived around 1950 BC. It was a time when God was building His soon-to-be nation called *Israel*. Interestingly, the name Israel does not appear in the Bible until Genesis 32:28, when Jacob wrestles with a mysterious Man. The Man renames Jacob *Israel*. From that point on, the name Israel shows up 2,399 times (in the New King James translation).

In our Scripture reading today, we hear of a major war: five kings against four kings. The leader of the four kings was Chedorlaomer. King Chedorlaomer had ruled over the five kings for twelve years, but they had rebelled. So, he and his allied kings marched to meet the rebels who dared to challenge his authority. They met in the valley of Siddim, the place where the Dead Sea is today. One reason this account is recorded in the Bible at all may be because Abram's cousin Lot was taken captive in the battle's aftermath. Abram wasn't willing to look the other way. He gathered his own allies and went after his nephew.

### DISCOVERING GOD – GENESIS 14:1–16

– 1 –

#### **This was a huge fight!**

Wars are fought by people in the physical, but the spiritual battle is more powerful.

(v. 1–9)

– 2 –

#### **Lot was taken captive as a victim of the war.**

God will move on Lot's behalf, because He is interested in preserving families.

(v. 10–12)

– 3 –

#### **Abram fought for and rescued Lot.**

God is with us when we are called to fight on His behalf.

(v. 13–16)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Today we are called to fight spiritually on behalf of God's work, not physically. This is very important because the way we win spiritual battles is to trust in the LORD and hear what God commands. The enemy will fight with us all the time, but if we move as God tells us we will win the battle.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, TO WIN THE SPIRITUAL  
WAR I MUST LISTEN AND  
FOLLOW YOU. HELP ME TODAY,  
I'M LISTENING!**

# The Fate of Sodom

## GENESIS 18–20

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

Abram's name was changed by God. We can read about that in Genesis 17. His is now called Abraham, which means *father of nations*. The offspring of Abraham will be too numerous to count, and great leaders and kings will come from him. Abram was ninety-nine years old when the LORD changed his name and spoke these blessings to him.

This was just before the events of Sodom and Gomorrah. Interestingly, the LORD chose to involve Abraham in His dealings with these famously evil and corrupt cities. God set the scene for Abraham: God had heard the cry coming from the cities and was on His way to go see if the evil was as bad as the cries claimed. Abraham had saved the cities from a human king in the battle of Genesis 14, but now that it was the LORD acting, what would Abraham do? He found himself negotiating with God for the very lives of Lot and his family.

### DISCOVERING GOD — GENESIS 18:16–33

– 1 –

**The LORD reasoned aloud so we could hear what God's plans were.**

As people dedicated to the ways of God, we should always be ready to act on His call. (v. 16–19)

– 2 –

**God shows to Abraham His involvement with mankind.** God is perfect and never makes mistakes.

(v. 20–21)

– 3 –

**The mercy of the LORD is awesome and vast.**

Remember who God is and trust in His decisions. They are always right!

(v. 22–33)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Many say that the God of the Old Testament is harsh and difficult. When we read carefully however, we can see that God is demonstrating His merciful and graceful character. Because of the bondage of sin, truth is not always easy for us to see. God has saved us through Jesus Christ. Let's give Him a chance to speak!

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I HEAR YOU SPEAK THROUGH THE SCRIPTURES. YOU ARE MERCIFUL AND GRACEFUL.**

# Give It Up, Abraham

## GENESIS 21-22

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

The LORD had blessed and rewarded Abraham. He had everything he wanted and needed, so it seemed. The one special thing that Abraham had been given was his son, Isaac. God's promise to him for a miracle heir had been fulfilled in Isaac, and Abraham was completed as a man. But then came God's strange request. What if the son of Abraham was given for a test? Would he be willing to give up his son to God? Did Abraham believe in God's power to resurrect the dead? What would Abraham do? Since God knows our hearts, and no doubt thoroughly knew Abraham's heart, this test seems to be more for Abraham, Isaac and us to learn than it is for God to know. Nevertheless, the LORD tested Abraham this way. We should put ourselves in this situation and learn what we would do. God calls each of us to fulfill His purpose in our lives. Fulfilling that purpose is more than us simply being happy, we must learn to follow God.

### DISCOVERING GOD – GENESIS 22:1-13

– 1 –

**The LORD called out to Abraham and challenged him.**

Abraham did not question God, but followed His instructions.

(v. 1-3)

– 2 –

**God always provides for what He asks us to give.**

But are we willing to trust and give God what He asks of us?

(v. 4-8)

– 3 –

**Steps of faith may be hard, but they are necessary.**

Remember that faith is the only way to please God.

(v. 9-13)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Many of us love God, but do we trust Him? It is easy for us to say that we love someone, it's another thing to truly place our trust in them. The LORD desires us to love and trust Him. We must always pray that God would help us to trust in Him. It's not always an easy task for a people who have so much.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO TRUST IN YOU!**

# The End of Abraham

## GENESIS 23–25

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

Abraham died at the age of 175 years old. The LORD had blessed Abraham in many ways. The Bible reports to us that Abraham also had concubines, or secondary wives for the purpose of having children (Hagar and Keturah), who did have children with him. The sons of Keturah are listed in Genesis 25, however it was not these sons who were called for the nation of Israel. Isaac was the one whom God had chosen to continue on the blessing of Abraham. God's blessings often move on beyond our lives and circumstances to the next generations. God is not like man, He does not go away with new generations. The LORD is working on His Kingdom that will continue on earth as long as He wants it to, and we Christians are called to work on and build it. Like it does today, this transferal of God's blessing had nothing to do with the goodness of Isaac, but with the call of God.

### DISCOVERING GOD – GENESIS 25:1–11

– 1 –

**Abraham had six other sons besides Ishmael and Isaac.** The blessing of God comes to those whom God chooses.

(v. 1–4)

– 2 –

**Abraham put separation between his other sons and Isaac.** He knew who God had called and would bless, and took steps to protect that call.

(v. 5–6)

– 3 –

**God's blessing transfers to Isaac at the death of Abraham.** God selects people to contribute to His Kingdom.

(v. 7–11)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Remember that God is working well in the development of His Kingdom. We have the opportunity to contribute to it with our lives, time and energy. At the same time, we are aware that the LORD is working beyond our lives every day and in every way.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I NEED TO REMEMBER HOW BIG YOUR KINGDOM IS. HELP ME TO FALL IN LINE WITH IT.**

# Choices

## GENESIS 26–28

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

There are many things in our lives that are important to God including our choice of a spouse! Today in the west, we choose our spouses. That is not, and was not always the case. In the past, our spouse was chosen for us by our parents. Interestingly, in the case of Jacob, the choice was God's. Isaac charged his son to go back to the land of his ancestors to find a wife, without himself going. Just like Abraham's servant had to rely on God in the past to find a wife for Isaac, Jacob would need to do the same. It seems that Isaac expected the LORD to make a choice. This idea was culturally remarkable, even today! In our observation, we discover that Esau went the opposite way and added a daughter of Ishmael (Isaac's rival brother) to his wives. The choice of who we marry is critical to our life. Once we are married, we have no choice but to make ourselves work for harmony and peace in that marriage.

### DISCOVERING GOD – GENESIS 28:1–9

– 1 –

**Jacob was called by God to fulfill Abraham's blessing.** God has given each of us a blessing. We should not ignore that calling.  
(v. 1–4)

– 2 –

**Jacob went back to his family to find his wife.** Marriage should never be entered into lightly. It is a covenant before God.  
(v. 5)

– 3 –

**Esau rebelled against his father and chose poorly.** We should choose wisely and not rebel against God's blessing for our lives.  
(v. 6–9)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

We should always be aware of the LORD's calling on our life. We should never ignore it or choose against it. All too often we forget about it. Remember today what God has called you to do, and prepare yourself to do it.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO RECOGNIZE AND FOLLOW THE CALLING YOU HAVE ON MY LIFE.**



# God Shows Himself

## GENESIS 29–31

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

When God shows Himself, people wonder who He is. He is not confined to the culture of man and He does not follow man's rules. In the Old Testament we sometimes see what pastors and theologians have called the pre-incarnate Christ, a spiritual figure who accepts worship and commands authority, often called the Angel of the LORD. He was Jesus Christ before He came to earth as Jesus in the flesh. We learn from this that there are certain ways and certain times in which God will reveal Himself, and they are always for our benefit.

The selection of Laban's daughter is the way God shows Himself in this incident with Jacob. Jacob was so moved that he did not obey the cultural rules of the well. He immediately rolled away the stone and watered Rachel's sheep, breaking the procedure of man, and he wept. We need to pay attention to the way God works because He never chooses poorly.

### DISCOVERING GOD – GENESIS 29:1–14

– 1 –

**The people had created a culture around the well.**

God's ideas go well beyond our culture!

(v. 1–8)

– 2 –

**Our culture and attitudes are modified when we serve the LORD.** As we follow God, He overrules the culture of man.

(v. 9–11)

– 3 –

**Jacob acted in obedience to his father.** Our world changes when we act in obedience to God the Father.

(v. 12–14)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

We have a lot of decisions to make every day, and as followers of Jesus Christ our decisions need to be influenced and affected by God. These choices may not be what everyone else expects us to do, and learning this is a part of growing and finding what God has called us to do.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, AS I COME TO YOU, HELP ME TO KNOW THE DECISIONS I NEED TO MAKE EACH DAY.**

# Backed Into a Corner

## GENESIS 32–34

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

When we're cornered with no way out, we can get desperate. Contrary to popular opinion, this is a good place to be! When there is no way out but to pray to God, only God will answer the call. God always responds to us when we need Him. So it is good to call on the LORD a lot. When we do, God delivers us from evil and puts us to work.

Jacob, on the other hand, was never truly about the LORD's work, he was concerned about his own well-being. Now, he chose to do what God commanded and, as a result, would have to face his twin brother, who hated him for stealing his birthright and blessing. Jacob will face the person who hates him most. And he does the only thing he can – pray. When we pray with a desperate heart the LORD is pleased. Why? Because it is then that we're truly paying attention.

### DISCOVERING GOD – GENESIS 32:1–15

– 1 –

**Jacob was afraid and assumed the worst.**

We can take things the wrong way if we over-think and under-trust.

(v. 1–8)

– 2 –

**Jacob's prayer is honest and humble.** When we pray with desperation, God always answers!

(v. 9–12)

– 3 –

**Jacob thought that bringing a gift to Esau would help.** God had already touched Esau's heart. The gift was not necessary after all.

(v. 13–15)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Coming to Christ in desperation and repentance is a great sign before a great answer to prayer. Humbling yourself and acknowledging your limitations is part of trusting in the LORD. He will get you out, no matter what it is, and guide you each step along the way. Trust in Jesus Christ today!

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I MUST LEARN TO TRUST YOU, EVERY DAY IN EVERY WAY.**

# Going Back

## GENESIS 35–37

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

Many people get nostalgic or reminiscent about fun stuff from the past. I know I do! When my family and I get going, we can get lost for hours in our memory or looking at old family photos. But, I wonder, what about the moments that were not so fun? Do we ever reflect on the important moments?

When I went back to where I was hit by a truck, and my car totalled, that was a great place for me. Not because it felt good or I thought I cheated death, but because I learned of the LORD's protection. Jacob learned this, too, when he went back to Bethel. God's protection came from heaven above, not from anywhere on earth. When Jacob was travelling, the nations feared him and his sons, not because they were great men, but because their God was greater than any man. Going back is important for us because we must learn that it is God who protects us before we ever get into a conflict.

### DISCOVERING GOD – GENESIS 35:1–11

– 1 –

**God reminds Jacob what he had run from and who had chased him.** God is always with us and will meet us in our time of trouble.  
(v. 1)

– 2 –

**It is good for us to put effort into being right with the LORD.** When we work to keep ourselves holy, God notices.  
(v. 2–5)

– 3 –

**God reveals Himself to Jacob as God Almighty, and blesses him.** God is the healer and ultimate authority; we should worship Him as such.  
(v. 6–11)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

There are many times we fail to praise God for who He is and what He has done. He has helped us, protected us, healed us and kept us headed in the direction of heaven! It is the LORD alone who should have all the praise in our lives.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I PRAISE YOU TODAY!**

# God Is Faithful

## GENESIS 38 – 40

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

When things are very, very bad, God is still faithful. Everyone who follows Jesus Christ is ultimately victorious, victorious over sin, and victorious over the ways of this world.

But in our day-to-day lives, it may not always seem like it. How victorious did Jesus look on the cross? How victorious was Jesus when He fled from the Pharisees and priests in the Temple? Like Jesus, we must wait until the end to see the whole picture. Being ultimately victorious is not about proclaiming victory over and over again, it is understanding that we are on the winning side of the war even when we seem to lose some battles along the way. Jesus Christ was victorious when He died on the cross! It wasn't seen at the time, but He defeated sin, satan, and death when He rose in the flesh! We learn very much the same from the story of Joseph and the lies against him; he seems to have lost, but God was just getting started!

### DISCOVERING GOD – GENESIS 39:1-15

– 1 –

**Although a slave, God calls Joseph a successful man.** Success is not measured in what we have or how much we spend, but in what we do and who we serve as LORD. (v. 1-6)

– 2 –

**Joseph had a strong moral compass.** We must do the right thing, even in the face of temptation because unbelievers may judge God based on our actions. (v. 7-10)

– 3 –

**Although successful and morally good, Joseph was still framed.** Even when we do what's right, sometimes we are unjustly framed. (v. 11-15)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Our lives are fulfilled at the end of them, not at the beginning or in the middle. Our stories need to be completely written before we can truly define success and failure. Hebrews 9:27 says that it is appointed once for a man to die, then face judgment. Judgment does not happen until we are finished.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO SEE MY LIFE AS YOU DO. MY CALLING IS NOT FINISHED, IT'S JUST BEGINNING!**

# One Who Is No More

## GENESIS 41–43

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

God brought Joseph's past back around into his present. Long ago, Joseph believed that he would be in a position of authority over his brothers, but then they sold him as a slave and he was forced to build an entirely different life for himself in a foreign country.

Joseph had made his way to the top of the Egyptian ladder to the position of Pharaoh's chief officer. He was second in charge of all the land because of God's favor on him. This favor had got Joseph through some extraordinary circumstances, a rough ride from slave to noble. He married an Egyptian noble and had named his sons Manasseh meaning, "God has made me forget all the hardship of my father's house", and Ephraim meaning, "God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction". Joseph was about 40 years old when his long lost brothers showed up.

### DISCOVERING GOD – GENESIS 42:1–13

– 1 –

#### Jacob wisely instructs his sons to buy from Egypt.

When there is trouble, we sometimes want the LORD to move on our behalf instead of moving for the LORD. (v. 1–2)

– 2 –

**Joseph recognizes his brothers but does not tell them.** There are times when we recognize mistakes in our past. We should be honest about them.

(v. 3–7)

– 3 –

**Even in our attempt to hide the facts, the LORD has a way of bringing the truth to light.** God knows the truth. We need to hear and trust Him.

(v. 8–13)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

"One who is no more" is how the brothers identified Joseph. He could have run away from his past, they believed him to be dead, but God did not want him to run away. We too should face our past; we should always confess our faults and ask the LORD to help us now and in the future.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO FACE MY PAST AND NOT LET IT TAKE ME DOWN.**

# This Is Joseph

## GENESIS 44–47

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

The story of Joseph's life finds its dramatic climax in Genesis chapter 45. There is no way we can totally understand all the emotions that Joseph and his brothers were feeling, but we know that God completely understood and that He communicates this dramatic theme to us. Why would the LORD let us know the drama of this event? The swirling emotions of these men, who became the founding fathers of the twelve tribes of Israel, were the result of God's plan of salvation thwarting sinful human intentions. Everything meant for evil was turned into good. The betrayal of Joseph by his brothers and then by Potiphar's wife ensured that Pharaoh would have someone able to interpret the dream that God gave him. Joseph's rise to nobility likewise ensured that the sons of Israel had someone to feed them and give them a place to stay away from the great famine. Evil, betrayal and sin was woven into a detailed plan to save the nation of Israel. In chapter 45, Joseph and his brothers learn an important lesson about the God of their fathers.

### DISCOVERING GOD – GENESIS 45:1–8

– 1 –

**Joseph wept aloud, and everyone heard it.** It's good to deal with the truth, no matter how we feel.

(v. 1–2)

– 2 –

**Joseph reveals that it was God who preserved him for their survival.** When we do God's will others benefit, not because of us, but because of God in us.

(v. 3–8)

– 3 –

**Joseph sends his brothers to get his father. They have a place to live in famine.** God provides and shows us how to live, if we follow His commands.

(v. 9–11)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Joseph was God's chosen man to prepare a safe place for Israel to thrive in a time of famine. Though it may not be clear to us, the callings in our lives have purpose. We follow the one called Jesus Christ not just because we are better for it, but because many people may also survive due to our obedience.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO FOLLOW AND LIVE FOR YOU THIS DAY, AND EVERY DAY OF MY LIFE.**

# Jacob's Blessings

## GENESIS 48–50

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

Our future is determined by God. In Genesis 49, Jacob prophecies over his sons as he blesses them. Sometimes parents, if they love the LORD, can speak to their children's futures and callings. This is not to say that our parents know in detail, and for certain, the things that we will face, but they are listening to life and the God of it. Jacob was a man who had much to confront in his life. When Jacob was young the LORD knew what he would face. He has been through the drama of mistreating his father, fighting with his father-in-law, and wrestling with God, he has made peace with the twin brother he stole from, and he has lost and regained a favorite son. Now, as Jacob's eventful life draws near to the end, he gathers his sons together and begins to speak his last words to them. The first four of Jacob's eleven sons mentioned here explain God's plan for Israel's future; how and who will be important to the Biblical story of humanity.

### DISCOVERING GOD – GENESIS 49:1–12

– 1 –

**Reuben was a strong force, but he was unstable and would not excel.** Only those who are stable in spirit will prevail.

(v. 1–4)

– 2 –

**Just because we have rules does not mean we are strong.** God desires that we have both mercy and truth, not just truth!

(v. 5–7)

– 3 –

**Judah is described as a lion.** Only as we follow Jesus Christ with our lives are we truly successful.

(v. 8–12)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Lots of people have ideas about how to be successful in life, but the only way we can truly succeed is by following the teachings of Jesus Christ. It seems backwards because when we come to Christ we dedicate ourselves to Him and our lives are no longer our own. Giving ourselves to Him is the only way to find real and lasting success.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO FOLLOW AND LIVE FOR YOU, TO SUCCEED IN YOUR CALL ON MY LIFE.**

# The Birth of Moses

## EXODUS 1-3

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

After Jacob settled in Egypt during a time of famine, the Israelites lived there for about 400 years. Near the end of those years, the ruling Pharaoh or king of Egypt became paranoid and resentful of the Israelites. They had been there for ages, working and growing in strength and number. It was the numbers that had him worried; Pharaoh feared that Egypt would eventually be overrun, or that the Israelites may side with his enemies in an outbreak of violence. This was not to be tolerated. Pharaoh first forced the Israelites into service as labourers. This did not have the desired effect on their numbers – the Israelites took to service in stride and their population continued to grow. Pharaoh then ordered Israel's midwives to kill all male children at birth. When they didn't do this Pharaoh ordered the slaughter of Israelite boys and enforced it by having the babies killed in the Nile River. This emphasis of Pharaoh created the first heroes of Exodus: the midwives of Israel, the mother and sister of Moses, and the daughter of Pharaoh himself.

### DISCOVERING GOD – EXODUS 2:1-10

– 1 –

**Baby Moses was placed in the weeds when he was about three months old.**

The Israelites were greatly suffering under the heavy rules placed on them by Pharaoh. (v. 1-3)

– 2 –

**Miriam was instrumental in the rescue of Moses.**

When we find ourselves in dangerous places, we must trust God.  
(v. 4-7)

– 3 –

**Pharaoh's daughter was stirred with compassion when she saw the child.**

God used the women in Moses' life to bring this leader of Israel into safety.  
(v. 8-10)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Living our life through Jesus Christ is not always living our life without challenges. We must discover what it means to trust in God. Miriam and Moses' mother, the midwives, and Pharaoh's daughter were the real heroes of Israel. God uses anyone, anywhere to accomplish His will!

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I MUST LEARN HOW TO TRUST IN YOU!**



# Challenging God

## EXODUS 4-7

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

Most people in this world do not read the Bible regularly, so they develop answers to their questions about God, and life, based on their own experiences and opinions that they've heard. When we read the Bible carefully, we read what God has said about Himself. Moses had this same problem, he did not really know the God of his forefathers. When God appears to him, Moses is fascinated. Yet, even when God begins to speak, Moses still doesn't seem to get it, or doesn't want to get it! Moses had given up his life of importance; he seems to have been satisfied being a shepherd in a foreign land. While shepherding was a fine profession, God, the creator of everything, had a different plan, and He was determined to get Moses back on board.

### DISCOVERING GOD — EXODUS 4:1-15

— 1 —

#### **Moses learns that God has power over satan.**

God is all powerful, satan is not. We should hear and obey God!

(v. 1-5)

— 2 —

#### **Moses learns that God has power over the physical world.**

God has authority and power over all of heaven and earth. We should trust Him!

(v. 6-9)

— 3 —

#### **The LORD became angry with Moses because of his lack of faith.**

God helps us to do the things we think are impossible!

(v. 10-15)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Moses was a murderer, outcast and an outlaw. He had found refuge in Midian and had built a life for himself. Now, at his advanced age, God wanted to make Moses even more. God would redeem Moses' life while saving the Israelite nation. God would show all of Israel who He really was.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO LEARN AND KNOW WHO YOU ARE!**

# Frogs!

## EXODUS 8-10

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

In our modern western culture, frogs are seen as mostly harmless creatures that children love to catch and play with. But in other cultures and in ancient times many believed that frogs were spiritual creatures, or at least that they represented a god or spirit. According to the Dictionary of Mythology, frogs were considered to be symbols of the water god the Maoris worshiped in New Zealand. The Navaho in North America saw the frog spirit as a bearer of bad news. A Siberian legend says that a frog lying on its back supported the world. The Bible indicates, and history flat out tells us, that the frog was revered in ancient Egypt; it was a symbol of the goddess of fertility associated with the Nile River. God speaks to Moses and tells him to have Aaron raise his staff, calling the frogs out of the water to infest the land. God is showing that He has authority over everything!

### DISCOVERING GOD — EXODUS 8:1-15

— 1 —

**Moses warned Pharaoh, God would bring up frogs in rebellion against them.** The LORD is over everything, everywhere.

(v. 1-7)

— 2 —

**Pharaoh was given a chance to have God intercede. The frogs were at the command of Moses.** Always follow the commands of the LORD. What He says will happen!

(v. 8-14)

— 3 —

**Pharaoh hardened his heart against the LORD.**

God gives us many chances to follow Him. We should make the decision to do that now.

(v. 15)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God's judgment against Pharaoh and Egypt was sound. The ten plagues could have stopped at two, if Pharaoh did what he said and did not lie to Moses. Pharaoh's decision was his and no one else's!

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO LISTEN AND FOLLOW YOUR SCRIPTURES DAILY.**

# Hardness of Heart

## EXODUS 11-13

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

Hardness of heart is something that is difficult to confront and change. In fact, it often looks impossible. Hardness can change under two conditions: 1) we have to realize that we are being unreasonable and desire to be reasonable; 2) we must come to God and ask Him to change us. This is the hardest step as it requires us to humble ourselves and admit that we need help.

Following the LORD Jesus with our lives is a sanctification process, a softening of our hearts, we are changing into who God intended us to be. Sin has tarnished our hearts, but Jesus Christ came and did something about it. He took the punishment of our sin upon Himself and defeated it through His death and resurrection, once and for all. This means that when we confess the LORD Jesus and believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead, we will be saved (**ROMANS 10:9-10**). God has promised to do this for us and gives us the gift of eternal life.

### DISCOVERING GOD – EXODUS 11:1-10

– 1 –

**God established Moses as a great and powerful man.** It is the LORD who makes us strong and powerful, not we ourselves.  
(v. 1-3)

– 2 –

**God's final plague is announced, releasing His people to go and worship the LORD.** When we worship God and people stop us, they will pay the price. (v. 4-8)

– 3 –

**Pharaoh's heart was hard toward God even though God allowed him time to change.** An end will come to God's mercy – truth will come along with judgment.  
(v. 9-10)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

It is remarkable that God is so merciful! This mercy will come to an end though, and the LORD will bring His anger and judgment. It's an uncomfortable topic but it is something that will happen, so it would be a mistake to avoid it. In all things we must keep ourselves close to God.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I MUST STAY NEAR TO YOUR HEART. HELP ME TO DO THAT, ALWAYS.**

# None of These Diseases

## EXODUS 14-17

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

Personal testing is a reality of knowing God. God isn't being mean or abusing His power in this testing, it's that we need to learn to be active in our faith, otherwise we become lazy! The laziness of humanity is so established that people have become rich off of it – think about all the companies today making billions off of products that entertain us. The Bible promotes having a good work ethic, but today a lot of people would rather just win the lottery and call it a day. Whatever our financial situation, we should want to keep busy and be productive. This passion is what God the Father installs in every Christian. When we gain our freedom from sin we are still living in a distressed world, and that should be motivation to work hard for the Kingdom of God. As Christians, the principle of hard work applies both physically and spiritually, and across the different avenues of our lives. We work well in the world so that we are good witnesses of God's nature, and we work consistently in the Church to further the Kingdom of God in human hearts.

### DISCOVERING GOD – EXODUS 15:22-27

– 1 –

**With our lives under God's authority, we learn to move and do what He says.** It is important for us to change our habits from a sin-filled life to a Christ-filled life. (v. 22)

– 2 –

**We often point to others in times of trouble or failure, instead of calling on God for help.** Remember that our purpose is eternal, not temporal. (v. 23-24)

– 3 –

**God will test us to make sure we learn to listen to Him.** To expect God to do everything and us to do nothing is lazy and unproductive. (v. 25-27)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

### TODAY'S PRAYER

God desires that we be workers of right and good, rather than only working for ourselves. God promised that if Israel listened, learned and applied the methods of God's plan, He would keep them from any of the diseases that were put on the Egyptians! This promise continues for us today.

**LORD, HELP ME TO HEAR YOU CLEARLY IN MY LIFE.**

# God Through Moses

## EXODUS 18-21

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

Coming to know the LORD is a very different experience than anything else we will ever go through. It changes our hearts and our lives forever. We receive a new purpose of living in the truth, demonstrating to the rest of the world that God is real by showcasing His changing power. Some of the questions we need to ask ourselves are: Are we actively doing this? Have we become so involved with our own selves that we've gone in a wrong direction? Are we buying into the world's culture and trying to live our best material lives now? Have we forgotten what God has rescued us from?

God is in the business of seeking and saving the lost. We should look carefully at our own lives, finding areas that we can shape to better express God Almighty. Jethro was Moses' father-in-law and he had kept safe Moses' family until the confrontation with Pharaoh was over. Even as a pagan spiritualist, Jethro saw and confessed the reality of Israel's God.

### DISCOVERING GOD — EXODUS 18:1-12

#### — 1 —

**Moses' wife and sons were brought back to him.** There are times in life when God calls us, and it is difficult.

(v. 1-6)

#### — 2 —

**God's miracles are made known so others can hear and see.** A miracle or healing is not ours alone, it is from God and is for His glory!

(v. 7-8)

#### — 3 —

**Moses gives all power and glory to the LORD for delivering Israel.** When we tell what God has done in our lives, people and attitudes change towards Him. (v. 9-12)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Our lives are about God. Our living should be for Jesus Christ. Miracles and change come from the Holy Spirit. The LORD desires us to give Him glory for these things, so that others will know that God exists.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I GIVE YOU ALL THE PRAISE AND GLORY FOR THE THINGS YOU HAVE DONE!**

# What Does God Want?

## EXODUS 22–25

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

What does God want? Many of us will try to give things, or do things for God that we think He wants. Consider though that God is about justice and righteousness. One of the west's favorite boasts is that we are free. Physically our freedom was worked and fought dearly for, but spiritually there is still a battle in need of winning. Christ won the ultimate battle, and we need His help if we are going to be freed as individuals and cultures from sin. This is what God desires. He doesn't need things, He doesn't even want things! It has always been about hearts, souls, meaning. When we give our lives to the LORD, He gives them purpose and we learn a new and better way to live.

### DISCOVERING GOD — EXODUS 23:1–9

– 1 –

**We must be people who love righteousness and justice.** When we think right, we can make good decisions.

(v. 1–3)

– 2 –

**We must not ignore but help even our enemy.** God helps us when we come and yield our lives to Him.

(v. 4–6)

– 3 –

**We must be people who understand.** God does not justify the wicked. He helps those doing right in heart and strength.

(v. 7–9)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The Law of God is not really about doing right and wrong, it's about living and demonstrating His righteousness and justice in our daily lives. When we surrender our lives to Jesus Christ, we learn what our hearts are to become in Him. We can't be perfect, but we can follow Jesus Christ with His mercy.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I MUST FOLLOW YOU AND NOT GIVE MYSELF TO MY OWN DECISIONS.**

# The Temple

## EXODUS 26-29

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

The temple of God is important. God commanded Moses to create a structure that was simple but profound in meaning. They called it the tabernacle; it was essentially a travelling holy place or temple. There God would meet with the Israelite high priest. As the LORD set Israel up as a proper nation, Exodus 26 contains the instructions, recorded for everyone to see and hear, for this central tent. It is interesting that in the last days (**RECORDED IN REVELATION 21:22**) the Bible says, "And I saw no temple in the city, for the temple is the LORD God the Almighty and the Lamb." The tabernacle and the later temple seem to represent God's work on earth to Israel. Today, it is we, God's people through Jesus Christ, that are the temple: "Or do you not know that your body is the **temple** of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" - **1 COR. 6:19-20**.

### DISCOVERING GOD - EXODUS 26:1-13

- 1 -

**Cherubim are placed in the tent tabernacle to illustrate the presence of God.** Today we have the Holy Spirit of God in our hearts.

(v. 1-3)

- 2 -

**The presence of God cannot be split up or broken.** As we come to know the LORD in our heart, mind and soul, God secures us in His presence forever. (v. 4-6)

- 3 -

**The curtains were used as a tent over the tabernacle.** The ongoing presence of God in us means that our lives are continually changed.

(v. 7-13)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

We were built to live with the presence of God. Inviting Him to work in us may yield subtle results at first, but the overhaul on our lives will be powerful. Let's read the Bible, pray and watch the remarkable things God will do... then let's make them known to others!

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, THE TRUTH REMAINS:  
NOTHING CHANGES WITHOUT  
YOUR PRESENCE. HELP ME TO  
CHANGE!**

# God's Choice

## EXODUS 30-32

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

Just as God did not select one individual to communicate His goings, comings and Word to mankind, one person was not responsible for crafting the tabernacle. The LORD chose several artisans to create the articles and clothes of the priests, as well as giving the responsibility of on-going maintenance of the tabernacle to three sub-tribes of Levi. The LORD still does this today. He has many representatives with backgrounds in different denominations. The key is the Word of God. God spoke His Word not in vain, but plainly so that we all can read and learn. Sin, or missing the mark, is our problem. When we study Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy, we learn much about the Law of God. We should remember that God selected people to represent Him, and He filled them with wisdom and the Holy Spirit.

### DISCOVERING GOD – EXODUS 31:1-13

– 1 –

**Wisdom, understanding and knowledge were given to Bezalel by God.**

God still gives us special ability to do what He has called us to.

(v. 1-5)

– 2 –

**God put wisdom in the hearts of the artisans.**

God continues His work through us, His servants.

(v. 6-11)

– 3 –

**Resting one day in seven was required.** The LORD knows that we need to rest.

(v. 12-13)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Rest is becoming a lost practice for many reasons. Our modern world doesn't consider God or His ways in the ordering of their business, but we should. God knows that we need to take time to rest and that without one it would be more difficult to keep our spiritual lives on track.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO MANAGE HOW I WORK. I NEED TO REST ONE DAY IN SEVEN.**



# God's Disappointment

## EXODUS 33-36

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

There will be times when we discover that we have sinned. When we say “sin” we mean missing the mark that God created us to hit. Humans began missing the mark back in the Garden of Eden when the opinions of satan were listened to over the voice of God (**GEN. 3**). With sin comes overwhelming darkness and despair. We cannot overcome it on our own. That is the bad news.

Mercifully for us, God wasn't content with the bad news, He intervened and dramatically changed life. Now we all have a clear cut choice: accept Jesus or continue in sin. Christ came to earth and lived a life to fulfill the Law of Moses, to fulfill the prophets of the Old Testament, and to fulfill God's plan of salvation for all of mankind. God took our bad news and made it good! All we have to do is accept it and follow Him.

### DISCOVERING GOD – EXODUS 33:1-11

– 1 –

**The Israelites were haughty and stubborn.**

Because of that, the LORD's presence would not be with them as before to conquer the land.

(v. 1-3)

– 2 –

**The Israelites took off their jewelry in mourning.**

We should never become stiff-necked. God is good all the time!

(v. 4-6)

– 3 –

**God calls each of us to come to Him not just for salvation, but for fellowship.** There are good reasons God commands specific things for us. (v. 7-11)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Sin is an awful abuse of our skills and talents. We cannot be who we were made to be when we are slaves to sin. God sent Jesus Christ to rescue us. He doesn't leave us where we are; He leads us into better places, even if we have to do some mourning along the way.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I AM LEARNING HOW YOU ARE WORKING TODAY AND FOREVER. HELP ME TO EXPRESS IT TO OTHERS.**

# The Lampstand

## EXODUS 37-40

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

The construction of the golden lampstand is fascinating. Due to its appearance in Revelation, some say that the heavens have a copy of the lampstand in them! If the heavens are eternal though, then the lampstands here on earth would be copies of the seven lamps of God in heaven. Revelation proclaims the meaning of the seven golden lampstands in Revelation 1:20, "The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches." In light of this long history of symbolism that spans from the Hebrew Scriptures (the Old Testament) into the Christian Scriptures (the New Testament), it is interesting to note that the Church itself should not be seen as entirely separate from God's people Israel. We have been grafted in (**ROMANS 11**). That this was God's plan from the beginning is even seen in the symbolism of the lampstand.

### DISCOVERING GOD — EXODUS 37:17-24

— 1 —

**The lampstand and all its parts were made of one piece.** The LORD is One, and we are all one in Him.

(v. 17)

— 2 —

**The branches coming out of the lampstand were very well decorated.** The real Church of Jesus Christ represents the LORD well!

(v. 18-19)

— 3 —

**The lampstand had seven separate fires, all made of the same piece of high standard gold.**

The Church is not made with earthly wealth, but it is spiritually rich. (v. 20-24)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The seven lamps of God represent the seven spirits of God (**REV. 4:5**). God calls those lamps the Church. Notice the symbol of the lampstand at the forming of the nation of Israel and in the final book of the Bible. Israel seems to be used mightily in the end times. This is why Israel becoming a nation again in 1948 is significant.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I PRAY FOR YOUR PEOPLE ISRAEL. HELP THEM TO HEAR YOU AND SEE YOU TODAY.**

# The Grain Offering

## LEVITICUS 1-4

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

The grain offering made and given to the LORD was important. In fact, the Scripture tells us that it was the most holy of the offerings made by fire. Offerings can reveal what you truly believe about God. If He is a top priority in your life, then the quality of your offerings and the attitude with which you give them will reflect that.

These grain offerings were portions of the finest flour, or fine flour, baked into cakes. It's interesting that cakes were a part of offerings – the giver took care and patience to make the cake, knowing it would be given away to God. Today, it seems like we have lost the art of giving and making offerings or taking the care to prepare our hearts and hands for giving. When we put time into our giving it shows that it's important to us.

### DISCOVERING GOD – LEVITICUS 2:1-10

– 1 –

**The grain offering is unique, and is prepared by the giver.** Offerings are not only about giving money. They are also our work for the LORD.

(v. 1-3)

– 2 –

**Grain offerings were prepared in special ways.** Offerings were not just thrown together in any old way for God, nor should ours be today!

(v. 4-7)

– 3 –

**Grain offerings were presented first to God, and the remainder given to the priests.** Today offerings are given to the Church and the pastors for their sustenance. (v. 8-10)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Too many times we see offerings as simply giving money. Tithes and offerings are assigned specific meanings and portions in the house of God. The Old Testament offers us written pictures of the kinds and types of preparation each of the offerings received. We should think carefully about how and why we give to the LORD.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO GIVE YOUR WAY AND NOT MINE.**

# Trespasses

## LEVITICUS 5-8

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

The offerings of Israel, designated by God, were to make right the wrongs that had been done. We all live in a world that is a slave to sin; not only do we misuse and take our passions too far, we're often encouraged to do so by our cultures. God has designed us to have happiness, joy and fulfillment, but we were designed to have the real and lasting versions of those emotions, not sinful counterfeit ones. Sin has messed up these ideas. When we come to Jesus Christ in repentance, we give our lives to follow the One who saved us from our sins. It is in this moment that God begins to sanctify us, helping us to make sense of our desires for pleasure and showing us what is true. This is how the LORD keeps us safe from the stupid things of this life; He helps us get our thoughts, passions and actions under control. In the Old Testament, one way the Israelites made provision for their out of control desires was the prescribed offerings to God. The trespass offering is a great example.

### DISCOVERING GOD – LEVITICUS 5:1-5

– 1 –

**We should be responsible people as we interact with each other.** It is important to be a truthful witness in what we see or hear.  
(v. 1)

– 2 –

**We bear the consequence of uncleanness.** We should seek to avoid becoming unclean, and work to keep ourselves right before God.  
(v. 2-3)

– 3 –

**We are guilty of what we say and how we say it.** We should not speak recklessly; our words reflect what we really think.  
(v. 4-5)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Free speech doesn't mean that we aren't responsible for what comes out of our mouths. Words can hurt people or help people, and they are a world of evil in itself. James reminds us of that in the New Testament. Sanctification teaches us that God helps us control our mouth!

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO CONTROL  
WHAT I SAY AND HOW I SAY IT.**

# The Priests

## LEVITICUS 9-11

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

The Law of Moses is what we frequently call the four books that follow Genesis, in the Bible. These books contain much more than the “shall” and “shall nots” of God’s commands. The foundational beginning of Israel’s national religion is started here. The priests were set up to begin their work for God among the people and in the tabernacle. At God’s instruction the priests get ready to begin, they are to make an offering for themselves first. The LORD did not need this offering, the people of Israel did. They needed to know that the priests themselves were not perfect. This kind of training in humility was different from other religions and the priests they knew in Egypt. The people of the LORD had to learn the reality of the relationship between mankind and God. The LORD was not assembling a hierarchy of priests, He was beginning a different ministry in His tabernacle.

### DISCOVERING GOD – LEVITICUS 9:1-11

– 1 –

**The beginning of the priestly ministry started with the appearance of the LORD.** God’s presence changes everything. We need His presence!

(v. 1-4)

– 2 –

**The high priest was to make an atonement offering for himself first and then the people.** We must first submit ourselves to the LORD, if His presence is to be seen in us. (v. 5-7)

– 3 –

**Offerings are powerful when given to the LORD.**

When we do what God says, He makes Himself known in our situation.

(v. 8-11)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

We should always be ready to hear the LORD. Too often when we pray we want God to hear our requests first. What would happen if we first asked for His desires to be poured into our lives?

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, MY MINISTRY NEEDS AN OVERHAUL. I NEED TO LISTEN TO YOU!**

# The Cleansing

## LEVITICUS 12-14

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

Women are not forgotten in the Laws surrounding offerings. There are specific things only women can fulfill. Ritual cleansing after the birth of a child is one of them. No sin was committed by the mother or the child in childbirth, the woman was simply in a state of ritual uncleanness because of the discharge of blood. We can see the evidence of this ritual cleansing and offering still at work through Mary, who gave birth to Christ during the time of the New Testament. Mary fulfilled the requirements exactly as recorded in Leviticus, even though the birth of Jesus was some 1500 years later. Things in the Mosaic Law have been preserved and kept for the last 3500 years. However, we must remember that Jesus Christ came 2000 years ago and fulfilled the Law so that it was satisfied. When Jesus Christ shed His blood and died on the cross, He paid the cost of our sin in full, once and for all. Christians know and believe that Jesus Christ rose from the dead after three days. If we accept the LORD today, we have that burden relieved.

### DISCOVERING GOD — LEVITICUS 12:1-8

— 1 —

**A woman was called by God to recognize the value of childbirth.**

God gave women the responsibility of recognizing the LORD as the Giver of life. (v. 1-4)

— 2 —

**Recognition and distinction was observed between male and female.**

The Bible is clear that there are two genders; God is the creator of male and female.

(v. 5)

— 3 —

**The offering was tailored to fit the condition of her economic ability.** We

realize by Mary's offering, for example, that Jesus was not born into wealth.

(v. 6-8)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

As observed in Mary's offering (LUKE 2:22-24), Jesus was not born into a family of great wealth. Everything He gained was from God. The reason this is critical is because the LORD fits into every circumstance. We must never try to fit the LORD Jesus Christ into our own ideas, but learn from Him.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO HEAR YOU  
FROM YOUR WORD!**

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