



2021 BIBLE DISCOVERY GUIDE

JANUARY

GENESIS — LEVITICUS



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..... JANUARY 2021

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Sin and Sensibility

When most people think of the beginning of life, they think of their own birth and childhood. Biblically, we can go farther back than that, as far back as possible: the beginning of the human race. At the beginning of humanity, God set us up well. He gave us a great environment. He gave mankind companionship with Himself, and with each other. He established good instruction and made one rule for man, so that they could avoid sin and grow in God. But they did not! Humanity disobeyed God, and sin destroyed our original purpose. Today, the world is a very different place than it would have been had we not turned away from God.

Now, we must avoid sin in a different way. Now, we know very well what is on the other side of sin because we've already been there. The Bible tells us that when we come to the temptation of sin, we need to flee away! How do we do this when our relationship with God has been so altered? Not even Adam and Eve who spoke with God were able to overcome. Here is the good news: God has made a way. Jesus Christ lived a perfect life for us, died and rose from the grave to give us eternal life. Now, we have a different decision to make:

What will we do with Jesus?

Not once does God tell us that sin is weak or insignificant. Sin is a powerful force with far reaching devastation. It leads us to death. The only power strong enough to truly combat it is the love and life of God. The only recovery from sin available is through God's only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. He changed everything.

As we begin to read the Bible from cover to cover in 2021, let's be aware of God's plan for overcoming sin. Let's see how God reveals how to live for Him. And let's watch how and why He promises that His Holy Spirit will be with those willing to give their lives for Him.

Today as you read the Bible, remember that God is talking to you! He knows you, and He loves you. He created you specially. You are unique, and God wants you to respond to Him. Doing this consistently will change your life forever.



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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.

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 history, apologetics, theology, 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.

Lot's Legacy

by Ryan Hembree



As if Lot had not already sufficiently tested the grace and mercy of God by tarrying so long in Sodom prior to its destruction, he dares now to barter over real estate also. Though God, in His wisdom, instructs him to flee to the mountains, Lot pleads that he be allowed to escape instead to the small city of Zoar. Although God graciously grants his request and even spares that city from the impending destruction, Lot later leaves that place in favour of those mountains because “he was afraid to dwell in Zoar” (**GENESIS 19:30**).

Why Lot grew fearful of living there isn’t entirely clear. Perhaps he realized the city was just as morally depraved as Sodom was and thought that it, too, would eventually be destroyed. It’s also possible that the citizens of Zoar didn’t want Lot living there because, as the sole surviving family, they may have been seen as suspicious. Whatever the reason, Lot decides to take his daughters up into the refuge of the mountains to become cave dwellers. Their former life of riches and luxury was over. Worse still, Lot’s decision now to move to such a remote location also had “unexpected consequences.” Indeed, as the eldest sister explains: “Our father is old, and there is no man on the earth to come in to us” (**V. 31**).

Her words are rather surprising. Were the men of Zoar, where they had just returned from, unavailable? If the people there saw Lot’s family as a bad omen, their men may not have been willing to marry them. While we can only speculate, Lot’s daughters conclude that their isolated existence will make finding husbands next to impossible. They then resort to a truly abominable act. “Come,” says the firstborn, “let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve the lineage of our father” (**V.32**). For two consecutive nights, they get their father so drunk that he is unaware of what transpired. “Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father” (**V. 36**). To the elder sister was born Moab (a name literally meaning “from father”). His descendants were known as the Moabites. And to the younger was born Ben-Ammi (meaning “son of my kin”) who became the father of the Ammonites.

Even though Lot’s poor life choices led him to this tragic point, God still preserved his life—primarily because God remembered Abraham (**GENESIS 19:29**) but also because in God’s eyes Lot was righteous (**2 PETER 2:7**) and God does not destroy the righteous with the wicked (**GENESIS 18:16-33**). ■

Sodom & Gomorrah

by Corie Bobechko



The ancient cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were said to have been destroyed by God as judgment against their severe moral transgressions that had caused cries of outrage (**GEN. 18-19**). The sister cities were also part of a greater network of five cities called the *cities of the plain or valley* (**GEN. 13:12, 14:2**). Archaeologists found solid candidates for these five cities – Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim, and Zoar (*Bela*) – with focused excavations on Sodom and Gomorrah.

Discovered and excavated in the 1960-70s, the site believed to be Sodom (*Bab edh-Dhra*) is the larger of the two with 23-foot thick walls that once enclosed 9-10 acres; evidence shows the area outside of the city walls was also inhabited on all but the north side.

The city identified as Gomorrah (*Numeria*) is 7 miles south of Sodom with 13-foot thick walls encompassing only 2 acres. As a much smaller site, the citizens are believed, based on pottery evidence, to have used the enormous cemetery discovered at Sodom. The cemetery dates to before the foundation of the cities, less than ½ mile from the proposed site of Sodom and home to about 20,000 tombs and over half a million bodies.

Other than their locations matching the Bible's description, and a possible

reference to Sodom in the Ebla Tablets, scholars point to the double destruction at both of the cities as correlating well with the Bible's account.

In Genesis 14, a war was fought and lost by the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah and their allies from the other three cities of the plain, against four foreign kings who had invaded the area. When Sodom and Gomorrah fell, Lot was captured, and Abraham was left to rescue him. Not 20 years later, the cities were destroyed again by some sort of sulphureous, fiery substance that fell on the city (**GEN. 19**).

Excavations have revealed two destructions. The first saw the original Western facing gate and wall of supposed Sodom destroyed and burned. This area was then completely built over with a new wall, and a different gate was built on the northeastern side of the city. In supposed Gomorrah, a destroyed tower was found alongside charred remains of parts of the city, even an intact male skeleton was found in the debris. The destroyed parts of the city were then filled in and built right on top of it.

A second destruction came shortly after (~20–25 years), and from this the cities never recovered. Burnt layers of debris sealed their history for thousands of years, speaking to the calamity at Sodom, Gomorrah and their graveyard. ■



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JANUARY

GENESIS — LEVITICUS



Day 3, 4 and 5

GENESIS 1-2

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Chapter 1 of the first book of the Bible is a display of days or “Yom” in the Hebrew language. As can be seen in Genesis, a day to the Hebrew mind begins in the evening and finishes the following day: about 24 hours. In the first year of our Discovery Guide we focused on Genesis 1:1-8. In the second year we covered Genesis 2:1-17, and this year we will study days 3-5 of the creation story found in Genesis 1:9-23. The LORD created the universe in perfect scientific order. He gave special attention to earth as the home of those who would bear His image. In those first two days, God separated light from darkness and formed land on the earth. This established timekeeping with the coming and the going of light, and set the stage for God’s continued creation on the earth. On the third day the LORD God formed the oceans, the fourth day saw the creation of plants and vegetation. Practically speaking, humanity’s home was being developed as a place of sustenance. Next, God began the amazing process of creating life that would inhabit His good creation.

DISCOVERING GOD — GENESIS 1:9-23

— 1 —

On the third day God created the oceans, land, and plants with seeds.

God provided all the places and food that life would require.

(v. 9-13)

— 2 —

On the fourth day God created the sun, moon, and stars to shine on the earth. God placed elements to mark the night from day, for time, and seasons.

(v. 14-19)

— 3 —

On the fifth day God created all sea creatures and birds of the air, and commanded them to be fruitful and multiply. God continues the perfect setup for human life. (v. 20-23)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Sin entered our lives when Adam and Eve yielded their will to satan instead of obeying God. Though their actions changed everything for humanity, we are not without hope. God has settled the problem of sin; He has made a way for us to be reconciled to Him through the life and power of Jesus Christ.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**HELP US, LORD, TO BE A PART
OF YOUR LIFE. PLEASE, KEEP ME
CLOSE TO YOU.**

Tracing the Genealogy

GENESIS 3-5

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Genesis is a book of real history. I don't believe that it should be interpreted as allegorical or literary fiction. One of the reasons is because of how it deals with the history of mankind. Genesis 5 traces the genealogy of Adam through his son Seth, establishing the roots of the Hebrew nation. This selection is not arbitrary, God is aware of all the different nations of mankind and how they got where they are today. Through the Scriptures, God specifically chose to show the genealogy of the Israelites that begins here in Genesis. In His plan of salvation, this line of humans culminates in the incarnation of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the second Adam; as a direct descendant of Adam, Jesus is fully man and fully God, uniquely positioned to pay the cost of human sin. If we accept this provision of Christ and follow Him, then we will come into favor with God. God accepts us and provides eternal life.

DISCOVERING GOD — GENESIS 5:1-11

— 1 —

God created mankind with two genders: male and female. Our personal feelings do not change what God did in His creation. (v. 1-5)

— 2 —

Like Adam, Seth had many sons and daughters, which is where we came from. The LORD has made decisions about our history. (v. 6-8)

— 3 —

Man used to live many years but because of sin, he slowly lost his longevity. God is graceful, sin is not; God is life, sin is death. (v. 9-11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Our life is better when we understand that the Word of God is the Word of God; we must truly follow and live by it. "My son, do not forget My law, but let your heart keep My commands; For length of days and long life and peace they will add to you."

(PROVERBS 3:1-2)

TODAY'S PRAYER

HELP US LORD TO KEEP CLOSE TO YOU, AND TO KNOW AND LIVE OUT YOUR WORD.

Birds Tell the Truth

GENESIS 6-9

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Genesis 8 records the receding flood waters and how Noah knew that it was okay to open the doors of the ark. There had been 150 days of rain, and the deluge had covered the surface of the whole earth. The devastation must have been dramatic and dynamic. Interestingly, there are similarities between how God dealt with original creation and the purpose of mankind, and how He dealt with Noah and his family after the flood. They were beginning again. This time however, the planet was different, and so were the rules. The Bible records how God gave permission to eat meat at this time. Modern scientists postulate that the flood could have significantly changed the atmosphere. Perhaps this helps explain why mankind saw a rapid decline in lifespan. Due to these changes, we will never experientially know the world before Noah.

DISCOVERING GOD — GENESIS 8:1-12

— 1 —

New mountains and valleys appeared on the earth, after the flood.

Today, we see evidence of the flood all around us.

(v. 1-5)

— 2 —

Noah sent birds out of the ark to explore the earth, after the flood.

The LORD uses His creation to show when His timing is ready and right.

(v. 6-9)

— 3 —

It is always right to follow God's Holy Spirit.

God will lead us, if we will follow.

(v. 10-12)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The Holy Spirit is God's presence on the earth today. When we look to God and read His Word, the Bible, He will speak to us. It is best to listen to Him first, especially when it comes to identifying Him and understanding His ways.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, HELP US TO HEAR YOUR SPIRIT IN THIS NOISY WORLD. LET OUR EARS BE TUNED TO YOUR VOICE ALONE.

Avoiding Strife

GENESIS 10-13

DISCOVERING THE WORD

The LORD's people should always try to avoid strife. This does not mean that we compromise and become disobedient to God, but that we are people who choose to find peace rather than enjoying the fight. Abram gives us an example here in Genesis 13. As the senior, and more wealthy member of the family, Abram could have chosen his desired territory and left Lot with whatever was left. Instead, Abram allowed Lot to choose. Abram was content to be in second place; perhaps he was so confident in God's promise to him, that he didn't feel the need to fight for his own name. Imagine if all of us were also confident in God's plans. Imagine if we trusted God with whatever comes. Is God great enough to care for us and build His Kingdom? Though he lived long ago, in a world quite unlike our modern, western culture, Abram demonstrated how God desires us to live in peace with each other.

DISCOVERING GOD — GENESIS 13:1-9

— 1 —

We should always call on God to praise and thank Him for fulfilling our needs. There is a difference between our wants and needs.
(v. 1-5)

— 2 —

There is often conflict and strife between people, even in the Church. We must learn to work through our differences.
(v. 6-7)

— 3 —

As followers of Jesus Christ, we must take the lead in conflict resolution. When we follow God with our lives, He will help us.
(v. 8-9)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

There will always be conflict and trouble between people on the earth, even in the Church. How we choose to respond helps us Christians to demonstrate what we believe in the LORD. God will help us to achieve reconciliation, as only He can.

TODAY'S PRAYER

HEAVENLY FATHER, PLEASE HELP ME TO AVOID NEEDLESS FIGHTING, AND TO RESOLVE CONFLICTS WITH YOUR LEADING.

Plan B

GENESIS 14–17

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Whenever we have a task to fulfill, we usually have a couple of plans at hand to make sure it gets done. We see this concept at play with Sarah. She knew that God had promised a child and so she made plans for the child to be born. Abraham and Sarah were childless despite many years of marriage, and seemingly, despite God's promise. So, Sarah enacted the next plan. But was Sarah's plan B what God had in mind? We should never focus our attention on getting God's plan done ourselves. Instead, we should change our plans to what God wants. We need to learn to do things His way. This example from Sarah and Abraham shows us that human weakness is not the best way to accomplish God's will, but God does get things done anyway. Every day, there is something that the LORD has called us to accomplish. The question is: will we? Are we paying attention to what the LORD has told us to do, or do we just do what we want and then blame God if it goes bad? If we actively follow God, He will be shown strong in our weakness; this helps us to understand how powerful He truly is.

DISCOVERING GOD — GENESIS 16:1–12

– 1 –

Our way of doing things is not always God's way.

Remember, we serve a God of miracles.

(v. 1–4)

– 2 –

Sometimes we blame God when our plans go wrong.

Instead, what we need to do is to keep our minds and our actions focused on God's ways.

(v. 5)

– 3 –

God hears the cries of those who are collateral damage because of our stupidity. The LORD hears us all! God is merciful.

(v. 6–12)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

When we do things that are wrong, we must stop and ask the LORD for His forgiveness and, if necessary, ask the forgiveness of anyone else involved. There is a difference between being sorry and asking for forgiveness; anyone can say they are sorry, but seeking forgiveness requires more of an investment!

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, HELP ME TO REALIZE MY PROBLEMS AND DIFFICULTIES AND THEN HELP ME TO FIX THEM RATHER THAN REPEAT THEM.

Evil

GENESIS 18–20

DISCOVERING THE WORD

When evil begins to take over it's often a slow fade, it's not an obvious mega shift to those experiencing it. Evil hides in our culture and makes its investments in people, changing their ways and their desires slowly. Evil grows and grows unchecked, with any opposition quickly swept away in its current. When punishment comes, it's shocking. Evil is exposed for what it is, and humanity wonders at it. This is how Sodom became the city of shame that it was. It did not happen overnight. Lot had chosen this place to live because he thought he could prosper there. Most of us also believe this. We have to be in culture, no matter how evil, in order to make our living. It takes money to make things happen, after all. God however, has chosen us to do His will, His way. We should not compromise God's ways to make wealth. Money is not our god.

DISCOVERING GOD — GENESIS 19:1–11

– 1 –

Evil is seen by those who know the LORD, even though we often try to hide it. Remember, there is nothing we can hide from God.
(v. 1–3)

– 2 –

Real evil advances when God's way is ignored. We must resist evil and keep our minds focused on God.
(v. 4–5)

– 3 –

Evil is stopped by God. We must keep the LORD close to us.
(v. 6–11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

It is important for us to continue reading and learning what God has called us to do. No one has arrived; we all must keep our minds focused on the ways of God and how to keep them. Remember, the LORD has called us to be His examples in this world.

TODAY'S PRAYER

I NEED TO STAY CLOSE TO YOU
EVERY DAY, LORD, PLEASE HELP
ME KEEP MY EYES ON YOU.

Jealousy

GENESIS 21-22

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Even after about 3,900 years, Abraham is still well known. A recent Middle Eastern peace treaty was named after him: The Abraham Accords. Many people still know his name, and many others have taken religious meaning from him. It is important though, that we allow the Bible to be the rule of truth; that the story of Abraham's life comes from the pages of Genesis. In Genesis 21, we learn about two sons that Abraham fathered with two different women: Ishmael and Isaac. The name Isaac means, "He made me laugh" which was less about the joy of having him, and more to do with the unusual case of Sarah having a child well after her childbearing years. In this strange-to-us story, Sarah gives her maid Hagar to Abraham to have a child for her. But instead of this bringing the family peace, pregnant Hagar tried to usurp Sarah's role as wife. Thirteen years after the birth of Ishmael, the promised child Isaac, was born. Instead of fixing the deep seated tension between Hagar and Sarah, the birth of Isaac brought it to a head.

DISCOVERING GOD — GENESIS 21:8-21

— 1 —

Abraham was distressed because of what Sarah said. The LORD can make a way, even with our mistakes.

(v. 8-13)

— 2 —

Hagar was set to die alone with her son in the wilderness. Although we can feel alone and helpless, God is always there with those He loves.

(v. 14-16)

— 3 —

God always hears us. We have failed and fallen, but God is there. He will save us and keep us from destruction.

(v. 17-21)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The two boys grew into two nations: one nation was in the wilderness, the other became Israel. God has plans for everyone, everywhere. When we fall, that does not mean we have been reserved for destruction. God does not destroy us; He keeps us hidden from evil.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, HELP ME TO LEARN THAT YOU ARE ALWAYS THERE TO HELP ME, EVEN THOUGH IT MAY BE DIFFICULT.

Death

GENESIS 23-25

DISCOVERING THE WORD

We are told that death is a part of life, but it is not. Death was not originally a part of life! God told Adam and Eve to steer clear of sin so that they would not die. The book of Romans also makes this connection, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (ROMANS 6:23). When humanity sinned, or turned away from God, we set sin loose in the universe, and it changed all things. Now, we all experience death as a result of sin. In chapter 23 of Genesis, we learn that death was thought of in a unique way. Abraham knew that God would one day resurrect the dead, and he decided he wanted a special place for the burial of his wife. He bought the cave of the field of Machpelah.

DISCOVERING GOD — GENESIS 23:1-16

— 1 —

Abraham wanted to buy a special place to bury his wife. He knew that one day God would raise Sarah from the dead.

(v. 1-4)

— 2 —

Abraham was recognized and respected as a powerful man. How we live as Christians tells people what we really believe.

(v. 5-6)

— 3 —

Abraham used an ancient covenant ritual to buy the cave of Machpelah. Everyone deals with death, but Jesus is our future hope by dying and rising again. (v. 7-16)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

How we handle death tells the people around us what we really believe. When a fellow believer in Christ dies, we weep and mourn because of the loss here on earth. But because of the eternal hope we have in Jesus Christ, we know that we will see them again one day in eternity. Hallelujah!

TODAY'S PRAYER

THANK YOU, GRACIOUS HEAVENLY FATHER, FOR YOUR GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE.

Like Father, Like Son

GENESIS 26–28

DISCOVERING THE WORD

The Word of God tells us the truth about human nature. The stories of families in the Bible show this truth well. Abraham and Isaac prove that common saying, “like father, like son.” Isaac repeated the behaviour of his father Abraham by telling the leader of the Philistines that his wife was his sister. Isaac, like Abraham, was afraid to die on account of his wife. God’s purpose is not being displayed in this situation, but man’s weakness.

God creates families to carry out the things He desires; to make His love known throughout the world. Too often though, it is not the good behaviour we pass on, but the bad habits we have learned. How does the LORD handle human behaviours passed down through generations? And, can we break these behaviours?

DISCOVERING GOD — GENESIS 26:1–11

– 1 –

God makes promises to families, not just to individuals. We are on this earth for God, and not for us.

(v. 1–5)

– 2 –

The weakness of Isaac was revealed. His father Abraham did the same thing in Egypt. We must always trust in the LORD, instead of leaning on ourselves. (v. 6–9)

– 3 –

Abimelech was wiser than Isaac gave him credit for. God has people where we don’t expect them. We should pay attention.

(v. 10–11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Sometimes our weaknesses are more evident than our strengths; but when Jesus forgives our sins and saves us from hell, our perspectives and minds also need to change. Let’s focus on the strengths God has given us, and lean on Him for help in our areas of weakness.

TODAY’S PRAYER

I WANT TO FOCUS ON THE STRENGTHS OF OTHERS. HELP ME TO SEE THINGS YOUR WAY, LORD.

Covetousness

GENESIS 29–31

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Years after the events that take place in our Scripture reading today, God spoke to Moses and said, “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife...” (**EXODUS 20:17**). The LORD specifically commanded that the people of God should conduct themselves in a different way from those who do not know Him. In Genesis 30, we read about how the wives of Jacob coveted each other’s children. They wanted sons, and they were willing to do just about anything to get them. In fact, the reason they were so driven was because they competed with each other! They were attempting to show how blessed they were, how valuable they were to their husband and family. Jacob essentially had four wives. The first was Leah, the lost and lonely woman. The beginning of Israel’s twelve tribes was tragic.

DISCOVERING GOD — GENESIS 30:1–15

– 1 –

Rachel’s anger was paramount. Feelings of anger can drive us beyond reason.

(v. 1–2)

– 2 –

We often assign things we decide to do, to God’s work. But remember, the work of God is done His way and not ours.

(v. 3–8)

– 3 –

Rachel and Leah were sisters, but rivals with each other. Our passions and desires are not necessarily God’s will.

(v. 9–15)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Our weaknesses can be a strong and driving force in our lives. Thankfully, as our relationship with Jesus Christ grows more and more in strength, He helps us to overcome our natural drives. The way we conduct ourselves as Christians will be different as we make God our top priority.

TODAY’S PRAYER

**LORD JESUS, HELP ME TO MAKE MY
RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU STRONG
AND STEADY.**

Brothers

GENESIS 32–34

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Jacob was finally returning home from the East. He had spent many years working to support his wives and children. He was wealthy now, but there was something he could not forget. In Genesis 32, we read how the LORD wrestles with Jacob all night and as morning dawns, Jacob asks Him for a blessing. It is here that God changes Jacob's name to Israel. The name Israel means, "One who struggles with God." God knew that Jacob would be meeting his brother Esau soon after. In a way, God was undoing much of the wrong done years before. God never tells us to steal or be deceitful. The LORD wanted Jacob to know that he had contended with God and would contend with man. Jacob had stolen Esau's birthright and ran off. How would Esau respond to him now? Would he expect payback? The blessings of God are rich in surprise and wipe away sorrow.

DISCOVERING GOD — GENESIS 33:1–11

– 1 –

Esau wanted to see his brother, but Jacob was very fearful. The LORD is in control of our life, especially when we try to make things right.

(v. 1–5)

– 2 –

Esau loved God as Jacob did, yet he responded better than Jacob. The LORD has a way of getting into the hearts of people we don't think know Him.

(v. 6–8)

– 3 –

Esau was content to see his brother. He didn't want the rewards Jacob offered him. Many times our guilt controls our actions.

(v. 9–11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

An important part of our life is when we recognize how we have been weakened by sin and the toll it takes on our hearts and minds. But God teaches us how to become people who truly love again. The LORD shows us the rightness of His way and the goodness of His path.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**HEAVENLY FATHER, HELP ME
TO SEE YOUR WAY AND KNOW
YOUR PATH.**

Dreams

GENESIS 35–37

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Dreams are images, emotions, and events that take place deep in our mind. When we sleep, we're not preoccupied with the events happening around us, our minds are at rest. It's interesting to think that only Adam and Eve experienced what sleep was like before sin entered the world.

There are times when God uses the abstract nature and symbolism of dreams to direct us on the right path in the real world. That is a divine dream. Problems can come when we share those dreams without discretion. Joseph had God-given dreams that revealed a great future, but arrogantly shared it with his brothers and father – it was not well received. God was preparing Joseph for his future calling, but Joseph would need humility before any of these dreams would come to pass.

DISCOVERING GOD — GENESIS 37:1–11

– 1 –

At seventeen years old, Joseph was a tattletale.

We should be careful what we say and how we say it.

The LORD is our guide.

(v. 1–2)

– 2 –

It is never good to favor one child over another.

The LORD will guide us as parents, as we give Him guidance over our lives.

(v. 3–4)

– 3 –

Joseph was amazingly arrogant. If our attitudes are not right, we cannot hear God correctly.

(v. 5–11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The only way we can truly hear and understand what the LORD is doing and what He has said to us is to make sure that our attitudes are right and humble before God. In fact, this is the only way we can do the things that the LORD needs us to do.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, HELP ME TO GROW MY ATTITUDE AND MIND IN YOUR DIRECTION AS I FOLLOW YOU.

Judah's Weakness

GENESIS 38–40

DISCOVERING THE WORD

The heart-wrenching disappointment and moral failures of Jacob's sons continues as we read through the book of Genesis. The remaining eleven sons, future tribe leaders of Israel, led their father to believe that his beloved son Joseph had been killed by a wild animal. Jacob was inconsolable. At that time, the Bible records that Judah left his brothers and married a Canaanite woman. While the name Judah means "to praise" or "to thank", the things we learn about Judah are anything but praiseworthy. Even in ancient culture, much of the things that Judah did were awful. He was living and working to please himself. His responsibilities or expectations were sizable in his day, but the Bible remains truthful about human nature and how we live. The truth is told and exposed so that we can understand how the LORD deals with us in our imperfections. This story is separated from the rest of the on-going narrative about Jacob. It seems that God desires us to hear and understand how men fail and how He works in and through their failure.

DISCOVERING GOD — GENESIS 38:1–18

– 1 –

The sons of Israel were not to marry Canaanite women. There are

consequences when we disobey God.

(v. 1–5)

– 2 –

The first two sons that Judah had with the Canaanite woman were killed by God. We should

take the warning of God seriously.

(v. 6–10)

– 3 –

Judah lied to his daughter-in-law about giving her to Shelah.

In many ways Judah was evil and did not pay attention to or keep his promises. (v. 11–18)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

How we live shows others who and what we believe. If we say we are Christians and do not live to become more like Jesus, then who are we following? We should keep ourselves open to change through Jesus, so that we can grow all of our life and not just in a small portion of our living as we follow Him.

TODAY'S PRAYER

I MUST KEEP MY MIND, HEART, AND STRENGTH CENTRED ON YOU, CHRIST JESUS!

“I Am Bereaved”

GENESIS 41–43

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Jacob and his sons were very unpleasant people at the time of Joseph’s reign in Egypt. Years before, they had kidnapped Joseph and sold him into slavery, thinking they could get rid of him from their lives. But God’s plan for Joseph was very different. Through time and great struggles, God never left Joseph, and had blessed and given him gifts through the Holy Spirit. He was now a man second in the hierarchy of Egypt. During a time of famine, Joseph’s brothers came to Egypt looking for food. When his brothers first came to him, Joseph recognized them but they did not recognize him. And through an elaborate plan, Joseph sets up his brothers to ultimately bring his young brother Benjamin back with them to Egypt. This is where the long story continues. At Jacob’s broken and bereaved heart, the brothers begin their journey back to the land of Egypt – to the revealing of their brother Joseph and the new days to come.

DISCOVERING GOD – GENESIS 43:1–14

– 1 –

God begins to bring the weight of their sins upon the brothers.

Unrepentant sin always ends in destruction.

(v. 1–7)

– 2 –

Judah begins to confess, and puts himself as surety for his brother. Like Judah,

the LORD will help us to change as we grow in Him.

(v. 8–10)

– 3 –

Even in his older years, Jacob is changed by God. The LORD is faithful

to change and grow us throughout our lives.

(v. 11–14)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

There are a lot of “people never change” quotes out there, but remember that what is impossible for man is not impossible with God. God can do anything He desires, and His desire for us is to come to Jesus Christ and follow Him. When we do, we become a new creation in Him – from the inside out! Our hearts and desires change for the better.

TODAY’S PRAYER

LORD, CHANGE ME INTO WHAT YOU WANT ME TO BECOME!

To Egypt

GENESIS 44–47

DISCOVERING THE WORD

When Jacob travelled to Egypt, he thought it was to see his son again, but God had bigger plans. God knows the future, the past, and the present, and in this case, He was working to make a nation. The LORD told Jacob in a dream what he was going to do: God addressed him as “Israel”, the name his descendants would take, and that their destiny was not to stay in Egypt. God also assured Jacob that he would be reunited with Joseph.

This was the beginning of Israel’s journey into Egypt. After 400 years, God would call them out. For perspective, as of 2020, the United States is 244 years old; Israel was in Egypt for 156 years longer than the US has been alive. For Israel, the last 50 years were the worst. Attitudes would change and Israel would be thought of as vermin and be enslaved.

DISCOVERING GOD – GENESIS 46:1–7

– 1 –

God assures Jacob that he will become a great nation in Egypt. God

prepares us for the future His way, as we follow Him.

(v. 1–3)

– 2 –

God assures Jacob of His presence with him.

Promises of God are given to Jacob to show him that God is faithful.

(v. 4)

– 3 –

The nation of Israel was ready to grow.

The LORD makes places for us to grow in our life.

(v. 5–7)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God makes a way for us to grow. Are we listening to Him? We can help our spiritual maturity by continually listening and following the LORD. God will make His truths known to us and show us His ways, but we must be willing to listen and obey.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**HEAVENLY FATHER, PLEASE
OPEN MY EARS TO HEAR YOU.**

The Death of Jacob

GENESIS 48–50

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Jacob had lived a long time. He was old and feeble, surrounded by his sons and their families. Jacob had not only lived long enough to know that his son Joseph was alive, but also to travel to him and settle close to him in Egypt. After Jacob's death, Joseph told his Egyptian physicians to embalm his father. Jacob's body was prepared as a mummy in ancient Egypt, but he was not kept there. They took Jacob's body back to the tomb of Abraham, the cave of Machpelah. This was a hard and sophisticated funeral for Joseph's father. The time was unique. Jacob's descendants would grow into a nation in Egypt. Beyond sadness for the loss of their father, Joseph's brothers also experienced great fear. They worried that Joseph had been kind to them only for Jacob's sake. Joseph was an established ruler in Egypt, and long ago the brothers had sold him into slavery and lied about it. But God had changed Joseph.

DISCOVERING GOD — GENESIS 50:1–14

– 1 –

Jacob's death was surrounded with mourning. As believers we mourn the loss of life, but rejoice in God's gift of eternal life. We will see each other again! (v. 1–3)

– 2 –

Pharaoh permitted Joseph to fulfill the request of his father. Joseph was careful to honour his father, even in death.
(v. 4–6)

– 3 –

With Jacob gone, the authority of the family had changed. Joseph was changed forever.
(v. 7–14)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

When the LORD our God changes things, they stay changed. The Holy Spirit never makes any mistakes! We should keep our minds wrapped up in the ways of God, and stay close to Him. God always does what is best for His people, and He was growing Israel.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I NEED TO KEEP MY MIND WRAPPED IN YOUR WAYS AND NOT BECOME DISTORTED IN MY OWN THINKING.

The Command of God

EXODUS 1-3

DISCOVERING THE WORD

After Joseph and his generation had passed, the children of Israel grew in number and in strength. A new Pharaoh rose to power and felt threatened by them and contrived to decrease their population by subjecting the Israelites to slave labor. Yet the Hebrews still prospered. A new order was given that all Hebrew baby boys were to be thrown into the river. The mother of one baby boy hid him until it was no longer possible. She made a small cradle with bulrushes, and placed him in the reeds by the river's bank. Pharaoh's daughter came to the river, discovered the baby and rescued him. She named him Moses and raised him as her son in the house of Pharaoh. Around his 40th year, Moses watched an Israelite being abused by an Egyptian taskmaster, he reacted, and killed the Egyptian. When his sin was discovered, Moses ran from Egypt for 40 more years. In his new life, Moses married a Midianite woman named Zipporah, and herded sheep for his father-in-law. All seemed well until God caught his attention with a burning bush, and gave him a new purpose. Moses was watching a miracle!

DISCOVERING GOD — EXODUS 3:1-14

— 1 —

Moses feared God because of his sin.

We cannot hide from God, He knows everything about us and around us.

(v. 1-6)

— 2 —

God heard the cry of the children of Israel.

God hears us when we call to Him in prayer; He is our deliverer.

(v. 7-10)

— 3 —

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." The LORD is

known by His name!

(v. 11-14)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

There are many descriptive names given to God in the Bible. When we pray, we use the name of Jesus Christ because through Him we have access to, and relationship with, the fullness of God. We must remember His name in prayer and in conversations with our friends. We must never be ashamed of God.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, THANK YOU FOR THE
SACRIFICE OF JESUS CHRIST.**

The LORD Gets You Out

EXODUS 4-7

DISCOVERING THE WORD

The LORD does what He says and says what He does. He keeps His Word, and we should keep that in mind. Sometimes, the things that we need to fulfill God's will seem impossible. Remember though, that the plagues of Egypt were brought by God to fulfill His intent to save Israel, and they were miracles. It was impossible for the plagues to happen without the supernatural intervention of God. It is true that God has used, and can use natural processes to fulfill His Word, but the very nature and timing of those things are still miraculous. God begins to show Israel that impossible situations, the need for miracles, were not a problem for Him. God was freeing Israel from slavery.

DISCOVERING GOD — EXODUS 6:1-13

— 1 —

God always says what He does and does what He says. God is truth.

(v. 1)

— 2 —

God reveals His name to the people of Israel.

God is the LORD, "The Existing One" who will deliver them.

(v. 2-9)

— 3 —

God's command does not change. Past, present, and future, the LORD makes His commandments known.

(v. 10-13)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God does not change His mind! He knows exactly how everything is going to come about. In the prophets we see examples of this; at times God delayed judgment, but His character never changes.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I MUST REMEMBER THAT
YOU ARE NOT LIKE MAN, YOU DO
NOT CHANGE YOUR MIND!**

Locust, the Eighth Plague

EXODUS 8–10

DISCOVERING THE WORD

When God gives a command, why won't He listen to our negotiations? When God lays out His will, sometimes we try to figure out how we can still get what we want. What if we give God just a little bit less than He wants? God does not take second best. So when we fail to respond appropriately to His Word, there are consequences. Does this make God judgmental and domineering? That's what we often hurl back at someone who refuses to negotiate in a way that makes us happy. But remember that God's care is for us, not against us. He's not giving commands because He needs something from us, but rather because He knows how we need to change for our own betterment. God has purposes for us, and we won't be truly well or whole until we follow Him to fulfill those purposes. God also knows our weaknesses. In the case of Exodus, God did not change His demands of Pharaoh because He had not created Israel to be slaves, nor any man for that matter.

DISCOVERING GOD — EXODUS 10:1–12

– 1 –

God is showing who He is to everyone. The LORD is speaking to the people through His actions.

(v. 1–2)

– 2 –

The LORD threatened Egypt because Pharaoh was acting as God.

Our hearts must always be humble and obedient to the LORD.

(v. 3–6)

– 3 –

God does not negotiate; His command is His command. The LORD

knows the future and is able to help us in it.

(v. 7–12)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God is our Good Shepherd. He knows what is good for us and what keeps us in His plans, in His time. Our free will can get in the way of serving God. We should be willing to give our life to God, and allow Him to direct us in what we desire to do.

TODAY'S PRAYER

MY FREE WILL CAN GET IN THE WAY OF SERVING YOU, LORD. HELP ME TO FOLLOW YOU WITH ALL OF MY HEART.

Passover

EXODUS 11-13

DISCOVERING THE WORD

The LORD has placed wonderful promises of eternity in His Word. This is one of the things that makes the Bible as relevant today as it was when it was first written. Many of these promises can be seen in the covenants of the Old Testament; some of which have been fulfilled, while others have only partially been fulfilled. There are end results that still must happen for the LORD to continue His plans. God has chosen to display His promises and covenants through time. Time is finite; there was a beginning to time and there will be an end to time. Exodus 12 records the beginning of the Passover covenant. It is an image of the Messiah, what will come, and what is still to happen. God gives this covenant at the end of Israel's slavery in Egypt, and at the beginning of Israel as an organized nation.

DISCOVERING GOD — EXODUS 12:1-13

— 1 —

God establishes the first month of the year with the Passover. The LORD

sets up times and seasons for us.

(v. 1-2)

— 2 —

The LORD gives precise instructions for the Passover. There are

many prophetic elements wrapped up in the Passover.

The LORD continues to fulfill them. (v. 3-11)

— 3 —

God judges the gods of Egypt. The LORD's command is to bring His truth to the world.

(v. 12-13)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The truth of God is still being shown to the people of planet Earth today. We must show ourselves for who we are, talking about who has saved us to our friends and family. This is the beginning of our eternal purpose.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, HELP ME TO SHARE MY FAITH WITH MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

Bread from Heaven

EXODUS 14–17

DISCOVERING THE WORD

God revealed Himself as Provider in Israel's absolute need. God had rescued them from slavery in Egypt and now He was showing them who He really was. In years past, Abraham and Isaac knew God, Jacob found out who God was; now, it was their descendants' turn. God was establishing them as a unique nation, giving them a chance to live with Him as their King. The Exodus would have been amazing and joyful, and then, they ran out of food. The Israelites realized just how alone and vulnerable they were. In this place of need, God provided again! God needed His nation to know that He doesn't just rescue, He provides. Many times, we feel alone, very alone, but are we? Do we know who God really is? Are we talking to Him and paying attention?

DISCOVERING GOD — EXODUS 16:1–8

– 1 –

The Israelites could not see anything but what they wanted.

God supplies our needs.

(v. 1–3)

– 2 –

The LORD begins to establish a new way to gather food and eat.

When we serve the LORD God, He is our source in all things.

(v. 4–5)

– 3 –

When we complain, it is against the LORD.

Instead, we should make our requests known to Him, and be thankful as He supplies our every need.

(v. 6–8)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Many times, God uses our times of need to teach us. When things go wrong, God is not surprised. We need to learn to trust in the LORD with all our heart, mind, soul and strength in times of security and insecurity. As we put our trust in God we will know Him, more and more.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I DESIRE TO KNOW YOU
AND TO TRUST YOU MORE. I SEEK
YOUR FACE TODAY.**

The Ten Commandments

EXODUS 18–21

DISCOVERING THE WORD

The Ten Commandments only appear twice in Scripture. They have been a topic of much division. By and large, our modern society claims that we have outgrown these very old ideas, but do we even know what they are? The Ten Commandments from God are recorded in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5. Many people could probably quote them, but most people haven't taken the time to consider them Biblically.

These commandments are challenging because they deal directly with the nature of humanity: The first four deal with man and God, the next five deal with human to human relationships and the last ones deal with failures of the mind. In our culture, allegiance to God has sometimes been associated with setting up copies of the Ten Commandments on public land. Only to, in recent years, be removed so as to not offend modern sensibilities. It is an interesting commentary on where we are as a society.

DISCOVERING GOD — EXODUS 20:1–17

– 1 –

God is sacred. We were created by God and He has given us all the good things we have.

(v. 1–11)

– 2 –

Our treatment of others is critical to our success. God tells us the truth about our actions and reactions.

(v. 12–16)

– 3 –

We must mind our own business. What others have, or own, is irrelevant to our lives.

(v. 17)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

We should remember that how we act and react is critical to our success. God tells us the best way to live so that we can do His will. The Ten Commandments are often reflected in our reactions to others, rather than what or how we'd like to respond. We need to get God's Word in our hearts.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME REMEMBER TO
ACT AND REACT ACCORDING
TO YOUR HOLY SPIRIT.**

Anointing of God's People

EXODUS 22–25

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Anointing means “setting apart for sacred use.” So, when something was anointed it was used as a sacred object. The anointing of God’s people was very important. It is still important today, but in a different way. There is a difference between Old Testament and New Testament anointing. In the Old Testament, God anointed a nation as His witness. Today, because of the work of Christ, He anoints people from all nations and cultures to be His witnesses. Exodus 24 brings us to the beginning of this concept, when God set in motion a respect for holiness, a knowledge of being set apart as people. Israel needed to understand that God was different from all the other gods of the nations, He is holy and therefore they needed to be holy. It is important to note how God highlighted His attributes to this ancient nation.

DISCOVERING GOD — EXODUS 24:1–8

– 1 –

God’s holiness is demonstrated through His instructions to Moses. The LORD is speaking to Israel about who He is.
(v. 1–2)

– 2 –

God shows Israel how to worship. True worship of God comes through our obedience to His Word.
(v. 3–5)

– 3 –

The blood of the covenant was critically important. The blood of Jesus Christ covers all Christians in His covenant.
(v. 6–8)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God continues to confront people with the reality of Jesus Christ today. As we accept Jesus into our hearts and lives, we make an eternal covenant to serve Him forever. We should remember the importance of that, and realize that our free will is now subject to Jesus Christ.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP US TO KEEP YOU
IN OUR LIVES. YOU ARE OUR
COVENANT.**

The Altar

EXODUS 26-29

DISCOVERING THE WORD

The altar of burnt offering was used for sacrifices to God. The Israelites were commanded to bring their sacrifices, each one according to what God had given him. God assigns income to every one of His children. We need to be mindful of the struggling among us; God's will is for us to help. God has provided enough for us all, but it is all too easy to ignore God and mess up His plans for us and the Church. Fortunately, the LORD has alternate plans: plan B, plan C, etc. We need to remember to give according to what God has given us. The goal of the devil's distraction has always been to get us away from the plans of God for our lives. We must be obedient to God; we must work to change our reactions to life situations. Anyone can act like a Christian, but fewer can react like one.

DISCOVERING GOD — EXODUS 27:1-8

— 1 —

The altar of God is pure, not corrupted by human design. The LORD speaks to us about our giving. We are not to judge, but to give.

(v. 1-2)

— 2 —

God designed the altar to catch any waste, so that it would be sanitary. God knows our need to live clean and whole lives, providing a way through Jesus Christ.

(v. 3-5)

— 3 —

The LORD teaches us that giving to God happens everywhere. The altar was mobile and went with God's people wherever they went.

(v. 6-8)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

TODAY'S PRAYER

Giving to God is one of the ways we worship Him. It has nothing to do with being bound by the law. The LORD teaches us how to give if we pay attention to Him and His Word. Giving to God never makes us lack, but always keeps us aware of miracles from the LORD.

LORD, I NEED TO KNOW YOU.
HELP ME TO GIVE AS I SHOULD.

God, Turn from Your Wrath!

EXODUS 30–32

DISCOVERING THE WORD

In many of the recorded situations that we see him in, Moses seems to have been a hot-head. When God is ready to release His wrath on the people however, it inspired Moses' mercy. Moses challenged what God said He was going to do to Israel, and God relented. This is a challenge to understand because God's character does not change; His mind doesn't truly change because He knows the future, He knew Moses would plead with Him. God seems to do and say many things in order to work with us in our situations and with our characters. God has a plan that goes beyond what we may see in the moment. At the time of Exodus 32, Israel had chosen to forget Moses, they felt they had been abandoned and so they turned to what they knew – idolatry. Aaron committed a fatal flaw of leadership: Leadership is not giving people what they want, but leading them into what they need. The LORD doesn't waste this situation of Exodus 32, lessons were learned then, and lessons should be learned now.

DISCOVERING GOD – EXODUS 32:1–12

– 1 –

We are always looking for easier ways to see God. The devil knows this and uses it to trip us up, as Israel did with their golden earrings.

(v. 1–4)

– 2 –

Sometimes we create our own way to worship God. We must know the LORD's Word in worship.

(v. 5–8)

– 3 –

Moses pleaded with the LORD for the people.

As believers, we should always pray for the lost to come to Christ.

(v. 9–12)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Praying to God on behalf of those who are lost to His love is critical. We are not called to fight with them, but to pray and ask for mercy. This is one of the ways we react as Christians, instead of like people who do not know God's love.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I PRAY FOR THOSE WHO
DO NOT KNOW YOU. PLEASE
HEAL THEM SO THAT THEY MAY
FIND YOU.**

Instructions & Intentions

EXODUS 33–36

DISCOVERING THE WORD

When God began the process of restoring Israel, they were instructed in giving and the art of making things for the LORD. It is not that the LORD needed anything to be made, but they were workers and God had to put their work priorities in proper order. Remember that they had been slaves for years. The people of Israel came into the land of Egypt as a family of shepherds, but were forced and fashioned into slaves. God needed to put their hands to work, to do good work for God's greater plan. He was training a nation to be His nation, one promised from long ago, which was vastly different than a nation of slaves. Now, their work meant something beyond the practical. They did not do things for their own pleasure or good, but they did things that had an eternal purpose. This is the reason for the instructions of God. He was helping and healing His nation.

DISCOVERING GOD — EXODUS 35:1–12

– 1 –

At the center of their worship were things that tended to life.

The spiritual purpose of Sabbath points to eternal life and rest in God.

(v. 1–3)

– 2 –

Offerings to the LORD were given with a willing heart. Still today, our offerings should come from a willing heart.

(v. 4–9)

– 3 –

The things of God's worship were created from the inspired minds of His people. This is still true today! God inspires us with worship.

(v. 10–12)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The LORD gathers us for worship. As we choose to praise God, we choose to love God. When we love the LORD, it is because He first loved us. The Church is the people of God, not the buildings or institutions licensed and built by the hands of men.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**I CHOOSE TO LOVE YOU LORD,
BECAUSE YOU FIRST LOVED ME!**

The Bronze Altar

EXODUS 37–40

DISCOVERING THE WORD

The worship articles for God were inspired by God Himself and then crafted by the people of Israel. The altar was one of those items. The way it was fashioned made a statement about who it was they were worshipping. In the ancient world, a sacrifice was a deep symbolic ritual of great importance. It was critical to observe how it was carried out to understand why. In the Western world today, we do not make offerings or sacrifice animals on an altar, so this may seem strange or other worldly. Perhaps we do in other ways, but there's no meaning to it. The bronze altar, however, signifies and magnifies the majesty of our LORD Jesus Christ. He is the ultimate sacrifice, the one who stands in our place, with feet like burnished bronze, glowing in a furnace, resistant to the flames of judgment (**DANIEL 10:6; REVELATION 1:15, 2:18**).

DISCOVERING GOD — EXODUS 38:1–7

– 1 –

The dimensions of the altar were designed to create a reachable place where the Levites could access the LORD.

God is accessible!

(v. 1)

– 2 –

The four horns of the altar represent authority through sacrifice. God is King of kings, and LORD of lords!

(v. 2)

– 3 –

The altar was to be carried by the Levites, wherever Israel went. God is with us wherever we are; He never leaves us.

(v. 3–7)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The LORD designed the articles of worship in such a way to reflect His desire for us to always worship Him. He is the center of all things. He alone is our God. Today's world is full of people who project their own ideas of who God is and how we should worship. But we worship God, not our own ideas about God.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I DESIRE TO KNOW YOU FOR WHO YOU REALLY ARE. HELP ME TO HEAR YOU, AS I READ YOUR WORD.

The Rules

LEVITICUS 1-4

DISCOVERING THE WORD

If you are like me, you love board games. But even if you don't like old-school board games there are many people who love to play video games, which has become one of the world's largest industries in the last 25 years. In fact, the video game industry is projected to reach approximately 159.3 billion this year, according to Newzoo. In 2020, the average GDP was about 10% above 2019. Its growth is fast and steady. But you cannot have games without rules. Everyone needs rules! The book of Leviticus is named after the Levites, the tribe of Israel responsible for the priesthood. And God put in place rules for the people of Israel to worship. You cannot make up rules for games, and you can never create rules to worship God.

DISCOVERING GOD — LEVITICUS 3:1-7

— 1 —

Offerings to God were to be perfect, without blemish. We must give our best to the LORD!

(v. 1)

— 2 —

The cost of the offering was personal to the giver. The cost of God's peace is personal.

(v. 2)

— 3 —

Sin has destroyed our peace and nothing is saved from the fire. But now the blood of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, covers us.

(v. 3-7)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The rules of the LORD are ceremonial, cultural and moral. Moral law is eternal. The eternal rules of the book of Leviticus are important because they are still in play today. God is the Creator of these rules and we know them in our soul. Leviticus helps us to learn and understand the meaningful details within them.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD JESUS, I WANT TO UNDERSTAND THE POWER OF YOUR BLOOD. THANK YOU FOR THE TRUE PEACE YOU BRING TO MY LIFE.

A Lying Tongue

LEVITICUS 5-8

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Many of the laws of Leviticus are still relevant now, and lying is one of those laws. God's people are commanded not to lie about anything. If our lying results in the loss of property from our brothers or sisters, then we are commanded to restore that lost property. This is part of the cost for lying. The offerings given to God are often assigned to the things we did that we should not have, in other words, breaking God's law. In Leviticus 6, we begin to understand the deep-seated problem of lying. Lying becomes a lifestyle; it changes how we perceive others and ourself. Today many people lie and don't even think about it. In fact, it can become so easy to lie that they can lie to themselves without hesitation. But if you are a Christian, you must be honest to others and yourself. That is why Paul says we ought to "take captive every thought" against the knowledge of God and pretension (2 CORINTHIANS 10:5). The truth is a good way to move forward when you come to know Jesus Christ as your LORD. After all, a lie is the opposite of God.

DISCOVERING GOD — LEVITICUS 6:1-7

— 1 —

The one who lies must make restitution for any damages done. We must never give in to our urge to lie, but work to speak what is true and right.

(v. 1-5)

— 2 —

A person who lies must make restitution with God as well. We offend God when we lie.

(v. 6)

— 3 —

The sin of lying is forgiven by God. Jesus Christ has paid the price for our sins, but we must choose to turn away from sin and toward the LORD.

(v. 7)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Lying is one of the biggest and most ruthless offences today. Even if you do not know God, lying is not how you want to live your life. After all, in order to *lie*, you have to kill the word *life*. As Christians, our lives are living testimonies that Truth is real! We must commit our lives to follow Christ, and turn away from sin.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I WANT TO FOLLOW YOU
WITH ALL OF MY HEART, SOUL,
MIND AND STRENGTH.**

Clean & Unclean

LEVITICUS 9-11

DISCOVERING THE WORD

There are some foods that are religiously prohibited in the Law and Jewish culture. The God of the Bible is not a cultural God, He speaks to every culture. Yet the Jewish people had some restrictions related to their worship of God. Leviticus 11 outlines the instructions that God gave them for foods permitted and forbidden. While dietary restrictions are common religious markers, Judaism has unique symbolism in its selection. It groomed a culture that valued common foods such as sheep, doves, fish and bread, all of which have rich Biblical symbolism. It's interesting to think that what you consumed had meaning tied to it and foreshadowed the promises God had for His people. In the New Testament, Acts 15 outlines the basic laws that Christians ought to follow. Our LORD Jesus Christ did much to help the Gentiles into His Kingdom, not the least of which was fulfilling the laws given in regard to certain foods. However, that doesn't mean there is no wisdom in those laws. God knows everything, so if we listen to what He says, we will do well, even while we eat.

DISCOVERING GOD — LEVITICUS 11:1-10

— 1 —

God tells His people what they should and should not eat. Jesus Christ has fulfilled the law, yet we must know and obey His commands to follow Him.

(v. 1-8)

— 2 —

God lists fish as the only clean animals that live in the water. Whoever drinks of the water that Jesus gives them will never thirst again.

(v. 9)

— 3 —

Not everything is good for us. As we follow Jesus Christ, He will teach and help us to avoid the things that may seem harmless but are not.

(v. 10)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God desires a personal relationship with each of us. When we give our lives to follow the LORD, we are a new person with renewed purpose and hope. This doesn't mean we will never have trouble in life, but it does mean that as we follow Christ and obey His Word, we learn what is good for us and what is not.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, AS I COME AND SURRENDER
MY LIFE TO YOU, TEACH ME YOUR
WAY AND SHOW ME YOUR PATH.**

God Cleanses Us

LEVITICUS 12-14

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Leprosy has been around since ancient times. It is an infectious disease that destroys the flesh, causing severe disfiguring, skin sores and nerve damage around the body, much like sin does to our spiritual being. If left untreated, it is usually fatal.

Leviticus details that when a leper was healed from the devastating and deadly disease, he was to be cleansed by the priests, who were from the tribe of Levi. The way that God commands the cleansing of the disease is fascinating. Not only would we see Jesus Christ tell the lepers in His time on earth to go and be formally cleansed, since they had been healed by Him, but the LORD performed this cleansing as a testimony to those around Him. When we are saved by the grace of God through our faith, Jesus Christ makes us a testimony to His healing power. That's why God says that we should share with people about how we were saved and set free.

DISCOVERING GOD — LEVITICUS 14:1-9

— 1 —

God instructs the priest to make a sacrifice for the one who is cleansed.

Every time someone is saved, there is the fulfillment of the blood of Jesus Christ. (v. 1-6)

— 2 —

The living bird is released.

Seven is God's number of completion and perfection. The LORD makes plans for us to be free, sin has been defeated! (v. 7)

— 3 —

God cleanses us and we are different. Jesus Christ is the One who forgives us and makes us new.

(v. 8-9)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

We are changed when we come to Jesus Christ and give Him our life. He forgives us of our sins and makes us clean. God never changes. He's the same yesterday, today and forever. Remember what Jesus Christ has done for you!

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD JESUS, I THANK YOU
FOR CLEANSING AND HEALING
MY SOUL.**

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