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..... MAY 2025

Contributors

Rod Hembree
Corie Bobechko
Ryan Hembree
Janice Hembree
Matlock Bobechko

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In Christ We Trust

There is a brilliant motto on the U.S. dollar: “In God We Trust.” Notice that it is not ‘in money we trust’, or ‘in banks’, or ‘in the U.S. President’—it is God. Originally used during the Civil War, it means that the political, social, and economic prosperity of the United States rests completely in God's invisible hands. On the one hand, this is very comforting because God is the same yesterday, today, and forever, but it is also very quickly forgotten when we face insecurity in our finances. We need to keep in mind that the LORD's economy is never dictated by any leader, no matter how important, no matter how dire. God will take care of His people who trust in Him, despite their circumstances.

That is exactly what King Hezekiah learned against the Assyrian Empire who threatened his and Jerusalem's very existence. Hezekiah was challenged but he remembered that it was in God he trusted.

The idea of providing for our family and loved ones, let alone ourselves, is reserved

not for us but for God. If we are Christian, we consistently believe that God is our daily source of and for all things, even our finances; and we remember that by remaining faithful to God, and praising His name, through fear and financial losses.

This month we read about some dangerous, albeit interesting times in ancient Israel and Judah. Their disobedience and unfaithfulness to God nearly led them to complete annihilation. They lost everything. But when they remembered that God was their source, for life and for living, He restored them!

It is a wonderful hope we have: When we are faithless, He remains faithful—for God cannot deny Himself (2 TIMOTHY 2:13).

In Christ we trust! Forever and always.
Amen.



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.

MAY 2025

How to use this Guide

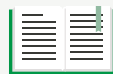
Make the most of your devotional time with our Guide to the Bible in a year. Each Guide provides valuable context and theological insight to help strengthen your faith and dig deeper into the richness of God's Word every day.

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.

Out of the Sheepfold

by Ryan Hembree



2 Samuel 7 and also the parallel account in 1 Chronicles 17 records the now famous covenant God made with King David—what we refer to as the “Davidic Covenant.” Even though David wanted to build God a house it was God that would build David a house. Not of wood, metal, or stone but rather a spiritual house (a kingly dynasty) that would last forever. A line of kings that would begin with his son Solomon but ultimately culminate in the eternal Son and King, Jesus Christ the Lord.

But there’s something else here that we shouldn’t overlook. Notice what God says to David: “I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel.” (1 CHRON 17:7) In other words, God took a shepherd of sheep and made him into a shepherd of people. And while that is significant it was not anything new. God had done this before. We see lots of examples of this in the Old Testament, but two notable ones are Joseph (son of Jacob and Rachel) and Moses. Joseph was a shepherd who God later used to save His people from starvation. And Moses was a shepherd in Midian for 40 years before God called him to deliver Israel out of the hands of Egypt. And all three of these guys (Joseph, Moses, and David) prefigured the ultimate Shepherd and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

And speaking of that ultimate Shepherd and Saviour, God wasn’t done because when He came in the incarnation of Jesus, He did the same sort of thing as He had done with Joseph, Moses, and David. First of all, Jesus was a carpenter by trade but also became the Chief Cornerstone which the builders rejected. Secondly, Jesus Himself took fishermen and made them fishers of men. Peter, Andrew, James, and John, four of the twelve disciples, transitioned from the fish business to the faith business!

But what’s also noteworthy about Jesus’ disciples is that not all of them were fishermen. In fact, some

of them had very different professions and backgrounds. Perhaps the two most notable were Matthew and Simon. Matthew was a tax collector for the Roman government and Simon was a zealot. And since zealots hated the Roman government and wanted to overthrow it, Matthew and Simon would have been *natural* enemies. And yet in the *supernatural* they became allies together in Christ. I think this is a great lesson for us as Christians. True Christians. Because even though we all have different cultures, backgrounds, professions, and some different doctrinal views that could potentially divide us, Jesus has called us together as one to build His Kingdom.

But I think this does come with a warning too because one of the twelve disciples was Judas. And so, with that, we also need to watch out for modern day Judases—people who are actively anti-Christian or worse yet counterfeit Christians—those people who are in reality wolves in sheep’s clothing—whose purpose it is to kill and destroy. But how can we as true Christians spot the fake ones? By listening to the voice of our true Shepherd, Jesus Christ the Lord who not only speaks truth but is truth.

And how do we listen to His voice? Mainly, through His Word, the Bible. For example, in Matthew 7:15-20 Jesus tells us that we will be able to identify false Christians by their fruit: “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them.” ■

Writing Chronicles

by Corie Bobecko



The Old Testament books of 1 & 2 Chronicles cover the widest swath of history of any book of the Bible. The opening genealogy begins with Adam, the first human man, and ends with the releasing of the exiles by the decree of Cyrus the Great in 538 BC. The main focus of the books, however, is the time period of the kings of Israel and Judah, which is at first surprising given the other three books of the Bible dedicated to this task (**2 SAMUEL, 1 & 2 KINGS**). In fact, about 50% of the information in Chronicles is already found in 2 Samuel and 1 & 2 Kings. The other 50% of new information paired with the editing choices of Chronicles' author, allow us to see the books' theological insight – the purpose for which it was written.

The authorship of the books is tied into its date of composition. The date of writing must be after the time of the exile, as the end of the exile is recorded. The end of 2 Chronicles is also repeated in the opening of the book of Ezra. This flows nicely with the Jewish tradition of the Talmud that claims Ezra as the Chronicler. Certainly, Ezra is a possibility, and the issue of authorship has been debated extensively using book themes, grammar and word use among others, but as the books themselves don't claim an author, it's still speculative. Nevertheless, Chronicles is often dated to the time of the Persian Empire in the 5th century BC (400s) with many scholars landing on a rounded guess of often to 450 BC.

The name Chronicles comes from something that Jerome (translator of the Latin Vulgate) wrote in his Latin Vulgate when he called the books, "the chronicle of the whole sacred history". The Hebrew title for the books literally means "the affairs of the days" (in Hebrew "dibre hayyamim") or "annals" or "chronicles".

This Hebrew phrase is used 33 times in 1 & 2 Kings

in reference to the sources being used to write Kings, and is used once in 1 Chronicles 27:24 to reference the official court record of David's reign ("...the number was not entered in the book of the annals of King David."). The Septuagint has an altogether different title for Chronicles, calling it instead a word that means "things left out" (in Greek, "Paraleipomenon") referencing its additional and supplementary material to that of the Kings and Samuel.

Looking at what content the author of Chronicles repeated from the other Biblical books, what content he added, and the language he chose to use reveals for us some of the themes and perhaps the overall Biblical purpose of the book. A clear theme is the unity of God's people, of "all Israel"; a phrase used 40 times in Chronicles while only 18 times in Kings. The Davidic covenant is also a clear focus as most of Chronicles is about David and Solomon directly while the rest highlights their descendants as the kings of Judah. The Jerusalem Temple and the worship practices surrounding it are another clear focus. God's justice in rewarding obedience and punishing disobedience in His covenant people, the importance of having an upright and willing heart over bland obedience, and an effort to record previously left out prayers of some major Kings (David in 1 Chron. 29, Jehoshaphat in 2 Chron. 20, and Hezekiah in 2 Chron. 30), rounds out some of the more personal themes in Chronicles.

Overall, it's easy to see that the Chronicles were written to a new generation of Israelites taking back the Promised Land. These exiles had returned. What did God have for them now? And what exactly did their history mean? Chronicles seems to have been written to answer these questions and bring all of Israel's history back into a guiding role for a new generation of covenant people. ■



2025 BIBLE DISCOVERY GUIDE

May

1 CHRONICLES — JOB



Order

1 CHRONICLES 22–26

DISCOVERING THE WORD

One thing that we can clearly discern from looking around at creation, is that God is a God of order. It's true that chaos and confusion now exist within that order, but a deep purpose of Genesis 1 and 2 is to show how God brought order and purpose to His creation. This principle extends out into how God works with us, He is not an author of confusion. His ways are certainly difficult for us to understand sometimes, and His works can leave us temporarily confused, but He desires us to come to Him and find our answers. In 1 Chronicles 23, we read about order in ancient Israel's worship. King David laid out a plan for the worship of God. While there are those today who believe that the worship of God should be completely spontaneous, these passages provide a challenge to that. Worship of God is a diverse and beautiful thing. Let's not confuse order with boring or aged or dead.

DISCOVERING GOD — 1 CHRONICLES 23:1–13

– 1 –

David separated the Levites into their divisions to do the work of God.

We should remember that God has plans for worship by everyone, everywhere.

(v. 1–6)

– 2 –

David recognized that families are important for the calling of God. Families are critically important!

Everyone is in a family, even the family of God.

(v. 7–11)

– 3 –

David knew God had set apart and instructed those who would worship and minister to Him. God's Word speaks about worshipping and praising the LORD.

(v. 12–13)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

We would do well to observe the Bible, when we plan our worship services. To be successful in our worship, whether personal or corporate, we must align our lives with the Bible. Our words and our actions reflect what we think and say.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD JESUS CHRIST,
HELP ME TO WORSHIP YOU
THE RIGHT WAY.

The Military

1 CHRONICLES 27-29

DISCOVERING THE WORD

King David took accounting of the military power of Israel, in 1 Chronicles 27. Because Israel was a tribal nation, meaning that it was composed of tribal family units, it made sense to count the military by tribe and clan. From our human perspective the more men of military age the stronger and more formidable the army. However, we've already read how God had used small and outnumbered military forces to accomplish amazing feats. Think, for example, of Gideon and his 300 men back in Judges 7. The principal God teaches us through accounts like those is that it isn't by human strength that evil is overcome, or that victory is had, rather, it comes by God's will and strength. This truth applies directly to us as Christians: the battles that we fight may be spiritual rather than physical, but they are won in the same way – through the strength of God Almighty, not by our number.

DISCOVERING GOD — 1 CHRONICLES 27:1-15

— 1 —

David counted the men according to their families and callings. We are men and women who fight the demonic spirits for the LORD's work.

(v. 1)

— 2 —

David gave specific assignments to everyone. The LORD Jesus Christ has given us specific assignments for our life, here and now.

(v. 2-3)

— 3 —

David knew that each man and family had a calling which God had given them. In the Kingdom of God, everyone is called and assigned.

(v. 4-15)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The LORD assigns a unique and specific calling for our lives. Do you know what yours is? God does not keep that from us. As we align our hearts and lives to heed His Word, God will use and move through us to minister to this broken world.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD JESUS, HELP ME
TO HEAR AND KNOW
WHAT YOU HAVE CALLED
ME TO DO.**

The Foundation

2 CHRONICLES 1-5

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Today we read about King Solomon beginning to build the dream of his father King David, the Jerusalem Temple. As we read about the laying of the physical foundation of the Temple of God, it makes me think about how God builds our lives. We all know the importance of having a good and solid foundation to build a building on; without it, the structure could be absolutely beautiful but doomed to collapse with any sort of pressure that comes around. The importance of a good foundation cannot be overestimated. In 1 Corinthians 3, the Apostle Paul speaks of Christ as our foundation. With Christ as the bedrock of our lives, God can build our lives into a beautiful place of worship. It all begins with Christ.

DISCOVERING GOD — 2 CHRONICLES 3:1-14

— 1 —

Solomon began to build the Temple on the second day of the second month.

When we choose to serve God, we serve God and not ourselves.

(v. 1-2)

— 2 —

The foundation's length and width and how it was made is recorded for all to see. Our lives should be a foundation for the work of the Holy Spirit.

(v. 3-7)

— 3 —

The Most Holy Place also contained two cherubim where the Ark of God would be. The Ark had been traveling with the Israelites for years before being placed in the Temple. (v. 8-14)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Only God is wise enough to build our lives the right way. In an amazingly beautiful partnership, God saves us and then works with us to grow us into people who love and serve Him well. We are saved, and we are a work in progress. Praise the LORD!

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, HELP ME TO TALK TO OTHERS ABOUT WHO YOU ARE AND HOW YOU HAVE CHANGED MY LIFE.

Running From the King

PSALMS 57–59

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Sometimes it really feels like you can't win. This is how David must have felt as he penned Psalm 57. David hadn't done anything to justify King Saul's hatred of him. David had followed God and been a true and loyal citizen of Israel, but as he writes Psalm 57, he's being confronted by evil from Israel's king. What a terrible thing it must have been to watch Saul go from God's anointed king of Israel to an evil and tormented man. This turn of Saul's character explains David's turn of fortune from valiantly pursuing the enemies of Israel to becoming one himself. No matter how much David tried to prove himself innocent of treason, Saul's hatred would reignite. How does David process this? How does he confront the reality of his situation? What is his heart cry to the LORD? We will find out as we read today.

DISCOVERING GOD — PSALM 57:1–11

– 1 –

David makes a pledge that regardless of everything, his soul will trust in the LORD. We must remain wholly committed to the LORD.

(v. 1)

– 2 –

David has no peace and says that danger is all around him. Our world will never have peace without Jesus Christ becoming LORD.

(v. 2–4)

– 3 –

David reminds us that God's glory is above anything we know.

We need to remember that the LORD will have complete victory, always!

(v. 5–11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

When we find ourselves trapped in our problems, we must always go back to the LORD our God who will help us overcome it all. Let's remember to seek the will and ways of God, and bring every issue to God in prayer.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD JESUS, HELP ME
TO FOLLOW YOU AND TO
UNDERSTAND YOUR WILL.**

Solomon's Compromise

2 CHRONICLES 6-9

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Temptation is a reality that we should never ignore. Even in times of victory we may be faced with opportunities to compromise on our godly convictions. Temptation will happen and it needs to be met with the strength that comes from a life surrendered to Christ. Jesus Himself faced temptations and was able to overcome them with a right understanding of God and His Word. It's important to remember that Jesus didn't come into our world just to give us a better life, He came to free us from the damnation of sin. So, let's live for Him and not for temporary gratification or for the ways of this fallen world. Sadly, the latter is what we see King Solomon doing. Though he was given extraordinary wisdom from God, Solomon still chose sin. He chose to love, to prioritize, his unlawful wives over God, and this led to more and more compromise, quickly leading into full blown idolatry and apostasy in Israel.

DISCOVERING GOD – 2 CHRONICLES 8:1-11

– 1 –

Solomon fortified and built cities, establishing ancient Israel. We can, and do, build our lives for God's Kingdom in this world.

(v. 1-6)

– 2 –

Solomon captured all the people Israel should have removed, and made them slaves. Jesus Christ helps us as we tell people who He is.

(v. 7-10)

– 3 –

Solomon compromised because of his Egyptian wife. Compromising the Word of God will always bring us down.

(v. 11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

No matter how much we achieve for the Kingdom of God, we must live in humble repentance before Him. Fellowship with God is critical. Let's remember, "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 JOHN 1:7).

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, FORGIVE ME FOR MY FAILURES AND HELP ME TO DAILY WALK CLOSER WITH YOU.

God's Presence

2 CHRONICLES 10-14

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Important leaders have come and gone for thousands of years, and God has seen them all. True greatness does not come through political, social, or economic power, true greatness comes from aligning yourself with God. This is a lesson that Rehoboam was forced to learn. As Solomon's son, Rehoboam seems to have had a chip on his shoulder. As a result, his nation divided, and he was able to reign over only two tribes of twelve. Even still, Rehoboam lived in the capital city of Jerusalem with its famed Temple. What is fascinating to me is that God set Rehoboam up to face the wrath of the Pharaoh of Egypt, Shishak. Shishak marched through Judah, conquered Jerusalem, and raided both the king's house and the house of the LORD. The magnificent Temple of Solomon was stripped of its wealth immediately after the time of Solomon. To add insult to injury, Rehoboam was forced to pay yearly tribute to Egypt – a severe humbling indeed. God was showing Rehoboam that it wasn't about the silver, the gold, the greatness of man. God was still in Judah, even though the wealth of Solomon was gone. God's presence isn't dependent on man's economy.

DISCOVERING GOD – 2 CHRONICLES 12:1-12

– 1 –

Rehoboam was not a man dedicated to the laws of God. Leaders lead us into disaster or grace, depending on who they worship.

(v. 1)

– 2 –

Shishak king of Egypt came and took over Rehoboam's rule. God makes it clear that we are vulnerable if we do not serve Him.

(v. 2-5)

– 3 –

The humility of Rehoboam and the leaders of Israel affected the anger of the LORD. God shows up in our humility, not in our pride.

(v. 6-12)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Pride is something the Bible calls the enemy of our soul and it will take us down if we let it grow inside of us. Pride lies to us about who we are and who God is. Let's keep our hearts and minds giving praise where it belongs: the greatness of God!

TODAY'S PRAYER

**JESUS CHRIST, I ASK
YOUR FORGIVENESS FOR
MY PRIDE.**

God's Way

2 CHRONICLES 15-19

DISCOVERING THE WORD

The Bible is the Word of God, it always tells the truth. In the Bible, we see many people who are not committed to the ways of the LORD, even though they had the opportunity to be. This ends up being the case with Asa king of ancient Judah. Judah began as a country after the split of ancient Israel into two. Judah was the smaller southern nation encompassing two of the Israelite tribes, and Israel was the larger northern nation comprising of ten of the Israelite tribes. Asa ruled for forty-one years, from about 913-873 BC. He was a good king, even though some mistakes of his are recorded for us to learn from. In a time of difficulty, Asa trusted in manmade deals rather than seeking the LORD's answer. While that is very relatable, we can see that it came with very real consequences. It can be so easy to fall back on man's answers to our problems, but what would happen if we prayed for insight and help? Seeking God is always in our best interest.

DISCOVERING GOD — 2 CHRONICLES 16:1-10

— 1 —

In the last four years of his reign Asa made a deal to get the king of Israel to back off, instead of praying. It is always best to pray first about our struggles.

(v. 1-5)

— 2 —

Asa accomplished his goal to defeat the king of Israel.

There are times when we are successful without God, but it always ends badly.

(v. 6)

— 3 —

The prophet Hanani's message to Asa was that he would now have wars because he relied on his own ideas. The human answer is not a long-term solution.

(v. 7-10)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The Bible says, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (**PROVERBS 3:5-6**). When we pray, the LORD does respond. He will show us the right way to solve difficulties and conflicts.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD JESUS, HELP ME TO
KEEP MY MIND FOCUSED
ON YOU AND YOUR WAYS.**

A One-Year King

2 CHRONICLES 20–24

DISCOVERING THE WORD

The short reign of King Ahaziah of Judah was a mess. Ahaziah ruled over Judah for one year, and he was evil in the sight of God. Ahaziah was the second king of that name, so we'll call him Ahaziah II. His uncle was the first Ahaziah and was king of northern Israel. Both Ahaziahs were descendants of wicked King Ahab. Ahab and Jezebel's royal bloodline had infiltrated the line of Davidic kings in Judah through an earlier marriage alliance between the kingdoms, but it was not to last. God had anointed a military man in northern Israel to bring judgment on the house of Ahab and take its place as king in the north. Ahaziah II of Judah was included in this judgment because of his apostasy. What happened next in Judah was even more shocking than the death of their short-reigned king: His mother, Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel who had married into the line of David, executed all male challengers to the throne and took power in Judah for six years. She missed one challenger though, a baby, a son of Ahaziah was hidden and raised in the Jerusalem Temple by the High Priest Jehoiada.

DISCOVERING GOD — 2 CHRONICLES 22:1–12

— 1 —

Ahaziah was deeply involved in the culture of sin when he became king.

Sin creates a culture that is hard to overcome. But with God's Holy Spirit, we can have success.

(v. 1–4)

— 2 —

Jehu killed Ahaziah and cut off the line of Ahab which had penetrated Judah.

Sometimes there is no way to solve a problem other than concluding it.

(v. 5–9)

— 3 —

Ahaziah's mother Athaliah ruled for six years after he was killed by Jehu.

The solutions of God don't always come when we think they should, but they always come.

(v. 10–12)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God knows the best way to solve all of our problems. We would be wise to pray and listen to what the LORD instructs us to do. Sometimes it may mean that we act right away, sometimes it may not. However the LORD directs, that's what we should do.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, AS I COME TO YOU
IN PRAYER, HELP ME TO
HEAR AND DO WHAT YOU
INSTRUCT ME TO DO.

Uzziah

2 CHRONICLES 25–28

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Uzziah was also known as Azariah ([SEE 2 KINGS 14:21](#)). When Uzziah was just sixteen the people of Judah made him king instead of his father Amaziah. The Bible says that Uzziah did what was right in the sight of the LORD, and that he pursued God in the days of Zechariah. He had a long reign of fifty-two years from around 783-742 BC. Uzziah was known for being brilliant and creative, he built up the country and we're told he even invented new military technology to strengthen his cities with. We're also told that as his successes grew so did his pride. Near the end of his kingdom Uzziah went into the Temple of God to burn incense on the altar of incense—something only the priests were consecrated to do. The priests even tried to stop him, warning him that he was overstepping his authority, but only God's correction stopped him, and would change his life forever. King Uzziah instantly became leprous. His life and its unfortunate end are recorded in 2 Chronicles 26.

DISCOVERING GOD — 2 CHRONICLES 26:1–10

– 1 –

Uzziah sought the LORD, and God rewarded him for that. Our lives are deeply rewarded when we seek God.

(v. 1–5)

– 2 –

Uzziah became a powerful leader because he depended on God. When we trust in God for all our needs, the LORD makes us powerful.

(v. 6–8)

– 3 –

Uzziah fulfilled all his desires because they were aligned with the LORD. We must align our desires to God's call on our life to be successful.

(v. 9–10)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

When we choose to follow the LORD in all our decisions, we are successful in what we do. To live for Christ is to learn and trust and grow in our faith daily with God.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO HEAR
YOU AND KNOW YOUR
DECISIONS FOR ME WHEN
I COME TO YOU EVERY DAY.**

The Revival

2 CHRONICLES 29–32

DISCOVERING THE WORD

King Hezekiah was dedicated to restoration. He wanted Judah and what remained of northern Israel to turn back to God. Hezekiah enacted a nationwide plan that saw unlawful and apostate high places, sanctuaries, and cultic sites torn down and decommissioned. He held Biblical festivals to the LORD in Jerusalem and turned the nation's policies back to God's ways. The Bible records a lot from the life of Hezekiah, it records a lot of the difficult things that he had to go through, and the brutal reality of the politics of his time. Yet through all of this, Hezekiah remained faithful to God. In 2 Chronicles 31, we see how Hezekiah encouraged and helped his people to value the commands of God. Revival is amazing but in Hezekiah's case it would not come without some serious tests.

DISCOVERING GOD — 2 CHRONICLES 31:1–6

– 1 –

The people of Israel worked to remove the culture of sin that had emerged before Hezekiah's time. As Christians, we turn against sin and work to seek our God.
(v. 1)

– 2 –

Hezekiah returned the people to the Law of God. The best way to seek the LORD is to read and know His Word, the Bible.
(v. 2–4)

– 3 –

Offerings were a key part of following God's law. We give to God because He gave to us and we want to promote His work.
(v. 5–6)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

We don't give to God to get something back; we give because God has given to us. When gifts are given for the promotion of God's Kingdom, then the purpose of God is fulfilled.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO
CHEERFULLY GIVE SO
THAT I CAN SEE YOUR
KINGDOM GROW.**

Hear Me God!

PSALMS 60–62

DISCOVERING THE WORD

So many of us only call on God when we are desperate—perhaps, there is a sickness that consumes our body or we are falling into financial ruin. Whatever the reason, it is always best to run to God. But what if we call on Him daily? Not just once a day, but all the time throughout the day? What if we prayed unceasingly and praised His name even in our darkest hour? What if we just simply enjoyed fellowship with the LORD? What would we say to God? Or rather, what would God say to us? The Psalms are just that.

The Psalms are prayerful songs of praise and worship, written so that we can individually meditate and corporately declare God's glory, even during times of trouble. In Psalm 61, David pours out his heart to God and declares that he will sing God's praise forever. Here, we see the testimony of God's strength and provision. What assurance of God's faithful love and eternal protection.

DISCOVERING GOD — PSALM 61:1–8

– 1 –

We can always go to God with our concerns and needs. As Christians, we know that the LORD hears us, and we need to hear Him!
(v. 1–3)

– 2 –

The LORD reminds us of who we are. We are children of the Most High God.
(v. 4–5)

– 3 –

Praise and thankfulness is a regular part of our lives. The LORD has given us the Psalms to praise His name.
(v. 6–8)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

When we understand that praise is a part of who we are as people, we learn that God continues to help and heal us. God is always good—in bad times and in good times. Let's remember to always PRAISE THE LORD!

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD JESUS, I PRAISE
YOU FOR WHO YOU ARE
AND WHAT YOU HAVE DONE
FOR ME!**

Kings of the End

2 CHRONICLES 33–36

DISCOVERING THE WORD

The nation of northern Israel that emerged after God's kingdom split in two, fell in 722 BC to the kings of Assyria. Almost two hundred years later, the nation to the south, Judah, fell to the king of Babylon. There were four kings involved in Jerusalem leading up to its demise: (1) Jehoahaz, who reigned for three months; (2) Eliakim, whose name was changed to Jehoiakim, he reigned for eleven years until Nebuchadnezzar bound him in bronze fetters and carried him off to Babylon; (3) Jehoiachin, who reigned in Jerusalem for three months and ten days, and was taken to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar along with valuable articles from the Temple; (4) Zedekiah, who reigned for eleven years before he rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar. It was at this point that God allowed Nebuchadnezzar to come into Jerusalem and burn everything to the ground, including the Temple of the LORD.

DISCOVERING GOD — 2 CHRONICLES 36:1–14

– 1 –

Jehoahaz, the son of Josiah, was taken to Egypt. God's judgment was postponed by Josiah, because of his obedience.
(v. 1–4)

– 2 –

Jehoiakim took the place of the former king, and the LORD continued to judge. God's judgment can be postponed, but is never stopped.
(v. 5–8)

– 3 –

Jehoiachin replaced his father Jehoiakim and did evil, so God's judgment continued. The only way we can avoid God's judgment is through repentance to Jesus Christ.
(v. 9–14)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Jerusalem was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar; God had given it over to him as a form of judgment. The reason was because of sin. Sin is always evil. Sin distorts our understanding, deceives our moral compass, and causes us to do evil things to one another. Jesus Christ has made a way for us to avoid that.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD JESUS, I COME TO YOU TODAY. PLEASE FORGIVE ME AND HELP ME TO CHANGE MY LIFE AND FOLLOW YOU.

Israel Returns

EZRA 1-4

DISCOVERING THE WORD

After all Israel fell, both north and south, God's people were humbled. They spent about seventy years in captivity. When the LORD was ready for them to return to Jerusalem, He restored the Sabbath and the land was ready to receive them. The people were called back to Jerusalem through a Persian king named Cyrus. This was predicted in Isaiah 45, a little over two hundred years before it happened. Despite the catastrophe, this is actually very comforting! The LORD has plans established before they actually happen; and when those plans finally happen before our eyes, we know the LORD is with us, and was always with us. The book of Ezra records the time in which Cyrus appears in history and proclaims: "...And He (God) has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem" (EZRA 1:2). Ezra 1 is the set up for the end of the Babylonian captivity. Ezra 2 is a list of the captives who returned to Jerusalem. Ezra 3 tells how worship is restored at Jerusalem as the people begin to build the house of the LORD. God is good all the time. We can always trust in Him.

DISCOVERING GOD — EZRA 3:1-7

— 1 —

It was in the seventh month that the people began to rebuild the Temple. God always has assignments for us when we follow Him.

(v. 1-2)

— 2 —

As was written in the Law of Moses, offerings to the LORD were reinstituted and kept by the people. We must set our lives to follow the LORD and know His Word. (v. 3-5)

— 3 —

Offerings to the LORD were given and commitments kept. The LORD supports His Kingdom primarily through the offerings of His people. (v. 6-7)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

It is important for us to listen, digest, and apply what the LORD is saying through His Word. He has told us how His Kingdom is built and how we are involved. We choose wisely when we pay careful attention to the things God has said.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORD. HELP ME TO HEAR YOUR HOLY SPIRIT AS I READ IT.

The God in Heaven

EZRA 5-10

DISCOVERING THE WORD

In the Bible, the Word of God, the LORD speaks to us. Yet, from the words of someone not in God's Kingdom, Cyrus, God tells the people that the Temple is going to be rebuilt. Cyrus tells them that they will not have to pay for the rebuild, it will be paid for by the Assyrian king. This is a miracle! So many times, God provides for special projects in His Kingdom from unconventional sources. The LORD often opens hidden doorways thought impossible. What is even more reassuring is that our God in heaven is the same yesterday, today, and forever! The LORD works in our lives as He has in the past. That is why reading and knowing His Word is so important. So, when we read Ezra 6 today, and hear how the LORD has miraculously set the stage to rebuild the Temple, we should also find comfort in our lives knowing that He can do the same.

DISCOVERING GOD — EZRA 6:1-10

— 1 —

King Darius searched for the words of King Cyrus and found them. God used Cyrus, a pagan king, to help rebuild His holy Temple. God's ways are not our ways.

(v. 1-4)

— 2 —

God kept and restored the holy articles of the Temple that Nebuchadnezzar had stolen. We must remember what God has made holy and trust in the LORD.

(v. 5)

— 3 —

The money for the Temple was given by Cyrus, and he told the Persian officials to stay away from the construction. The LORD always makes a way where there seems to be no way!

(v. 6-10)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

When we trust in the LORD, He always delivers. We do not need anything or anyone to build our confidence in God, except the power of the Holy Spirit. When we face challenges in our lives, it builds our faith and trust in God.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, HELP ME TO TRUST IN YOUR STRENGTH AND POWER.

Rebuilding the City

NEHEMIAH 1-4

DISCOVERING THE WORD

There were three waves of Israel's return from exile, that is when the people came back to Jerusalem from the eastern nations. The first two are recorded in the book of Ezra, and the third return is recorded in the book of Nehemiah. The first wave was 538 BC, recorded in Ezra 1-6. The second wave was 458 BC, recorded in Ezra 7-10. The third wave was 444 BC, as indicated in Nehemiah. While the Temple had been rebuilt, Nehemiah knew that the task of restoration was incomplete. Nehemiah was a faithful Jewish man in the Assyrian Empire with a prestigious and dangerous position: He was cupbearer to the king. Nehemiah was responsible for tasting the wine before it was served, in case it was poisoned. He put his life on the line for the king every day. When he returned to Judah, he saw that the walls of Jerusalem were broken down and the gates burned with fire. Walls were the mark of a true city, unlike villages which had no walls. This is also why, during the reign of Solomon, he built walls in the villages of ancient Israel to make them cities. Nehemiah saw himself responsible for restoring the city of God once again.

DISCOVERING GOD — NEHEMIAH 3:1-7

— 1 —

Even the high priest was involved in the restoration of the gates and walls of the city. There is nothing we cannot accomplish when we serve the LORD.

(v. 1)

— 2 —

There were some mentioned who did not build with them. We all should be involved in building God's Kingdom—no job is too small for us.

(v. 2-5)

— 3 —

The men of Israel built the foundation of the wall, even though they didn't live there. We have the responsibility of building God's Kingdom, not for us but for the LORD.

(v. 6-7)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Our world is so focused on our rights and how we can preserve them. But God's Kingdom is focused on the LORD and His commands. We must remember that when we serve the LORD Jesus Christ, we are building His Kingdom and not ours.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD JESUS CHRIST, THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO BUILD YOUR KINGDOM. HELP ME ALWAYS TO BE FAITHFUL.

The People Come Alive

NEHEMIAH 5-7

DISCOVERING THE WORD

When the people gathered to help Nehemiah build the wall of Jerusalem, they needed to be organized, they needed to be a nation again. When they finished the hard grind of building the wall, they needed to be motivated to come alive again. There were so many Jews who had come back to Jerusalem—the Promised Land—and were very tired and worn out. They had just experienced the punishment of seventy years of exile. They needed to be reorganized and restructured in the way God had envisioned them. That is why God sets apart leaders to motivate people, even today, and one of those leaders was Nehemiah. Nehemiah gathered them together and organized a numbering by genealogy of those who had returned to Jerusalem. Israel would be a nation once more. The records of his organizational skills are recorded in the seventh chapter of his book.

DISCOVERING GOD — NEHEMIAH 7:1-7

— 1 —

Leaders were chosen and told to abide by the order to protect Jerusalem.

The Christian life is not just about us living life; it is about us protecting God's ways.

(v. 1-3)

— 2 —

Nehemiah had organizational skills.

We are all created and placed by God in this life for our calling to His will and purpose.

(v. 4-5)

— 3 —

The men listed are those who were faithful to the first return to Jerusalem.

We are all called to preserve and protect people to hear the message of Jesus Christ.

(v. 6-7)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

We must remember that our life is not about us, it is about our God. The LORD Jesus Christ selected us to exist in this time and space for His Kingdom. We must share our story of how Jesus Christ has changed our lives and has given us eternal life.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD JESUS, HELP ME TO UNDERSTAND THAT YOUR WILL IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO MY EXISTENCE.

Commitment

NEHEMIAH 8–10

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Commitment! That was key to being an undivided kingdom again. They had been exiled for about seventy years by God, but in His mercy, He permitted them to return to the Promised Land and remain His chosen nation, Israel. This was after the nation had been through years and years of rebellion and pain. Remember, they had made this commitment before and failed to keep it. This was the chance they needed, and they wanted to prove that they could follow God. In the long term, they proved wrong. They could not follow the ways that God had commanded anyone to live without the help of forgiveness and power from Jesus Christ and His Holy Spirit. This is the set up to the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. When we read through the prophets in the Bible, we learn that the LORD is deeply grieved in our inability to follow what He says. We learn that Jesus Christ, who came to give His life for the cost of our sin, made away for us to follow Him. Therefore, we commit ourselves to building His undivided Kingdom—the body of Christ!

DISCOVERING GOD — NEHEMIAH 10:28–35

– 1 –

The priests and the people agreed they should follow the ways of the LORD from His Law. As Christians, we commit our lives to follow Jesus Christ, the Word of God. (v. 28–29)

– 2 –

The people committed to the lifestyle that God's Law instructed them. As Christians, we choose to live our lives different from the ways of the world. (v. 30–31)

– 3 –

The Temple and the priests were supported by the offerings given by the people. As Christians, we understand that offerings are given to support the work of the LORD. (v. 32–35)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Offerings were given without promise of tax receipts; they were given because God instructed the people to be obedient, to sacrifice for God and for one another. We should also remember that we give because God's desire is to teach us that money is not our source of living—He is.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO
REMEMBER THAT YOU
ARE MY SOURCE!**

Lost

PSALMS 63–66

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Many years ago, if you recall, there was a famous television series about survivors of a plane crash. In the pilot episode, there was an aircraft filled with passengers when all of the sudden the plane experienced severe trouble and fell out of the sky, crashing onto an island in the South Pacific Ocean. No one had a clue where they were, so the show was called “Lost”. There are times in life when we feel lost, too: misunderstood and alone, stranded survivors of a sin-cursed world.

Of all people, David, who was anointed king of Israel, knew that feeling all too well. His response was to call on God. David had learned through years of trials and hardship, that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God of the Bible—never leaves us. Psalm 63 is about just that; it is a great Psalm to read and meditate on when we are lonely or face troubling times. In life there are times when we can feel lost and alone, but with Jesus Christ in your heart, you are never lost.

DISCOVERING GOD — PSALM 63:1–11

– 1 –

David writes that he is never alone, God is always with him. God’s Holy Spirit dwells in the heart of every Christian.
(v. 1–2)

– 2 –

The name of God is key. Christians know that Jesus Christ saves and heals us. Praise God!
(v. 3–5)

– 3 –

David discloses that his soul follows closely behind God, who is his help. Christians know that we are to follow Jesus Christ in our lives, He leads us.
(v. 6–11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Jesus Christ came to the earth in the flesh and experienced every possible pain we could ever experience. We are called to follow the LORD Jesus Christ in all times, good and bad. He will keep us from what we cannot handle.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, THANK YOU FOR YOUR STRENGTH AND PROTECTION. I CHOOSE TO FOLLOW YOU WITH MY LIFE.

Jerusalem Resettled

NEHEMIAH 11-13

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Following the burning of the city of Jerusalem, the capital of ancient Judah, there were seventy years of abandonment. During this time, the walls were breeched and the Temple was in rubble. When Ezra writes of the first return, the men came to the city and built the foundations of the altar of God. This was the beginning of the rebuilding of the Temple. Then the Temple was built. Following the first and second returns, Nehemiah would bring order into the city by rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. But the city really wasn't functioning as a city yet. There were very few people living there. You could understand their reasons. This was the foundation of a complete city destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar. The memory was fresh in their minds. But Nehemiah now needed to make the city function again by assigning to it people and leaders to their rightful positions. Nehemiah 11 is where we discover how they did that.

DISCOVERING GOD — NEHEMIAH 11:1-9

— 1 —

People were asked to live in Jerusalem, many did not want to. God's city is unique, in that it contains the future presence of the LORD.

(v. 1-2)

— 2 —

The tribes of Judah and Benjamin had some of their people living in Jerusalem. God keeps His Kingdom ready for His return.

(v. 3-6)

— 3 —

The governor and his second in charge were assigned to the city. God has His order chosen and ready.

(v. 7-9)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The LORD is getting ready for His return very soon. We should be ready and busy sharing the Gospel message with as many as possible to invite them to come to the LORD Jesus Christ. Remember that our future is not in this present world but in God.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, HELP ME TO TAKE OPPORTUNITIES TO TELL AS MANY AS POSSIBLE ABOUT WHAT YOU HAVE DONE FOR ME.

Destruction of the Jews

ESTHER 1-4

DISCOVERING THE WORD

There are very few places in all of history that we can find a plan for complete annihilation of the Jewish people. The book of Esther is that place. This book is about a young Jewish orphan girl named Hadassah who became the queen of Persia. She was raised by her cousin Mordecai who had adopted her as his own daughter. Her name in Hebrew means “myrtle”. She was later given the Persian name Esther meaning “star,” after the goddess of the ancient Persian culture. The story is stunning with impossibility. God worked in amazing ways to orchestrate the miracles that Esther would be able to fulfill at the call of God. As an orphaned Jew who had been living in exile in Persia, she became queen of the most powerful empire in the world, and saved her people Israel from utter destruction through a series of happenstances that shook the world at that time.

DISCOVERING GOD — ESTHER 3:1-11

— 1 —

Mordecai refused to abandon God’s law and bow before Haman. God’s ways are not always popular with man’s ways.
(v. 1-6)

— 2 —

Haman cast *Pur*, meaning “the lot or fate”, to determine the day and month to kill all the Jews. Until the return of Jesus Christ, there will always be the presence of evil in this world. (v. 7-8)

— 3 —

Haman was given all the money and resources needed to kill the Jews. God knows every evil plan and intent, but He has a plan of escape for those who love Him.
(v. 9-11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God has provided a way of escape for all who call upon His name. Christians are not reserved for the wrath of God, but for the salvation of Jesus Christ.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, THANK YOU FOR
YOUR REDEMPTION AND
DELIVERANCE. MARANATHA
LORD JESUS!**

The King's Delight

ESTHER 5-10

DISCOVERING THE WORD

In Esther 5, we hear how Haman boasts to his friends and family about being promoted by the king, we get to see his arrogance and self-indulgence. As the book continues, we see how God works out Haman's evil plans for the good of God's people. In Esther 6, God uses Haman's selfishness to honour Mordecai. Over and over, we will see how God provides for the humble, protects those who love and trust Him all the while thwarting the plans of the wicked. Haman's character is the opposite of Mordecai's. Mordecai was not interested in self-promotion. He was living as a Jewish exile in Persia, raising his young cousin as his own daughter and living a life of faithfulness to God. Though this seems less rewarding at first, he and Esther end up as great heroes of the faith. Haman on the other hand, ends up facing justice. God is more than able to bring justice, even in a culture that was unjust. Let's remember to lean on God for true justice, rather than looking to our governments and institutions.

DISCOVERING GOD — ESTHER 6:1-11

— 1 —

Mordecai was brought to the attention of the king for his good and just action. God shows us what it means to be faithful to each other and to Him.

(v. 1-3)

— 2 —

Haman is asked what should be done for the one the king wants to honour.

Thinking it to be himself, Haman details all the ways in which he would like to be rewarded. (v. 4-9)

— 3 —

Haman finds out it is Mordecai that the king wants to honour!

God always makes right what people have gotten wrong.

(v. 10-11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

While we may not find true justice in the here and now, God is the righteous final Judge, He will make true justice known. God will wipe every tear away, and we will live in His righteous truth for eternity.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I THANK YOU
THAT ALL THINGS WILL
BE MADE RIGHT IN ETERNITY
WITH YOU.

Why?

JOB 1-4

DISCOVERING THE WORD

The question is why? Why would God allow or make someone suffer who has done nothing wrong? The book of Job is a wonderful study on how God's will actually works, and on how we think. Often our personal pain drives our thoughts about God. When we feel good, God is good! When we suffer, we call into question God's goodness. The book of Job reminds us that our natural way of thinking is confined to the here and now, it's earthly. But when we're dealing with God, He is outside of time; His plan for us is an eternal one. This problem of pain and the goodness of God is obviously an ancient one, in fact, Job is probably the oldest written book in the Bible, and yet its themes are just as relevant to us today. Historically, Job seems to be set in the time of the patriarchs, and its traditional author is Moses. As we begin to read, our earthly perspective is immediately corrected because the book begins with a debate in heaven.

DISCOVERING GOD – JOB 1:1-12

– 1 –

Job was a man of great wealth and power.

Having great wealth and control over most things in our life does not mean we have avoided suffering.

(v. 1-3)

– 2 –

Job loved God. As a good father, he regularly made sacrifices for his children to ensure their purity. Even great and godly fathers cannot make us secure from spiritual pain and suffering. (v. 4-5)

– 3 –

Satan challenged Job's motives for fearing God; the LORD gave him control over Job's possessions. We don't know what is happening in the spiritual world, but we do know who controls it. (v. 6-12)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God's love for us does not change when we face rough and difficult times. We must never forget that we have given our lives and everything we have to follow the LORD. It is to God that we owe our very lives.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I'M REMINDED TODAY
OF THE LIFE YOU GAVE FOR
ME TO BE FORGIVEN. THANK
YOU FOR REDEEMING ME,
I BELONG TO YOU!**

Job's First Complaint

JOB 5-9

DISCOVERING THE WORD

The three friends of Job are listed as Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. They really don't seem all that friendly though. They start well; they come and sit in silence with Job, mourning with him. But then they start to talk. Rather than continue in their mourning they begin to hypothesize why Job is suffering and what he can do to correct the situation. All their theories revolve around how they perceive God, they believe, essentially, that He always blesses the righteous and always curses the wicked. Their condemnation of Job and their disbelief in his cries of innocence only add to his sorrow. Only the reader knows about the conversation in heaven, only we know that Job is suffering because God is testing him. God will prove Satan a liar. Satan believes Job will reject the LORD, but Job will end up being a demonstration of God's grace, even in his suffering. In Job 6, we begin to hear Job's complaints to God for his compounded suffering. Job wonders: What did he do wrong? Why is he facing these terrible things? Does God hate him? Has God abandoned him?

DISCOVERING GOD – JOB 6:1-13

– 1 –

Job tends to blame God for his troubles, but the evil was from Satan. Many times we blame God for the culture of sin, instead of desperately praying to Him.

(v. 1-7)

– 2 –

Job is not feeling the hands of God, but those of Satan. Our suffering comes from sin and Satan, but God gives us relief from our suffering.

(v. 8-10)

– 3 –

Success is not what we feel but who we are in Christ. We have the gift of eternal life because of Jesus Christ. That is our ultimate success.

(v. 11-13)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

It is important to understand that human culture is a culture of sin. And the cost of sin still weighs heavily on all of humanity. But God! Jesus Christ has overcome sin for us. When we come to Christ and confess our sins to Him, He forgives us and gives us eternal life.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I PRAISE YOU FOR
THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE!**

Misunderstanding God

JOB 10-14

DISCOVERING THE WORD

It is easy for us to misunderstand God, especially when we are in pain. Pain has a way of blinding us. This is one of the reasons that it is so important to get to know God in the good times and in the bad, to pay attention to the ways that He works in our lives when we can hear and see Him. What we know about God and what He has done for us can get us through very dark times. Though our situations will change, our emotions, our pain levels, God will be there with us. He is the great and Almighty God, compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, rich in faithful love and truth (Exodus 34:6-7). Today, when we have accepted Jesus Christ, we have moved into a life of great victory! God will teach us and will lead us through difficult times, but we will come up on the other side in the strength of God. As we continue to read in Job, we'll see Job blaming God for all the pain, and seemingly losing his understanding of God. Yet, Job did not curse God. He knew God was real. This painful test saw Job at his lowest, but it was temporary, just as our testing and pain will be.

DISCOVERING GOD — JOB 10:1-12

— 1 —

Job asks why God was oppressing him, and wondered if God only did so because He could.

In this present world,
we will have trouble.

(v. 1-7)

— 2 —

Job asks why God would create him only to seek to destroy him. God gives us life. It is Satan who comes to steal, kill, and destroy us.

(v. 8-9)

— 3 —

God's care is not abusive.

The LORD is our help in times of trouble; He is not the cause of it.

(v. 10-12)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

We would be wise to listen to the Bible when it speaks of understanding God and sin. Sin is horrible and makes our life sour and troubled. Coming to Christ is the opposite. It helps us get out of trouble!

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I NEED TO
CONSIDER YOUR POWER
IN MY LIFE PLAN.**

The Presence of God

PSALMS 67-68

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Whenever we experience the presence of God in a palpable way, something always changes. God's work is a miraculous thing to behold. I see this expressed in many of the Biblical psalms. These ancient songs and prayers often explain the shift that occurs when God's presence overtakes an environment. As we read Psalm 68, we'll see it talk about God scattering the enemies of the righteous. This life may be full of unexpected twists and turns, but God always helps those who have called on His name to save them from sin. Following God opens us up to deep spiritual resistance by the forces of evil, but God is stronger than them. Jesus Christ has already defeated sin and death and He has made all things new! As we lean on the strength of God and call on His name, we will see His victory in our every circumstance.

DISCOVERING GOD — PSALM 68:1-10

— 1 —

The presence of God causes the wicked to perish. There will soon come a time when the presence of God will be here on the earth in full power.
(v. 1-3)

— 2 —

God sets the solitude in His family. In God's presence there is no loneliness or lack of belonging.
(v. 4-6)

— 3 —

God's presence provides relief to those who are suffering. It cannot be overstated how healing the presence of God is.
(v. 7-10)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

When the LORD Jesus Christ returns to earth, everything will be changed. How interesting it will be to see how the presence of God changes life on this earth!

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, THANK YOU FOR YOUR STRENGTH AND MAJESTIC POWER THAT YOU GIVE TO YOUR PEOPLE. WE BLESS YOUR NAME!

Our Purpose Broken Off

JOB 15–20

DISCOVERING THE WORD

People often equate their purpose in life with success and what they can accomplish. In other words, if each brick laid is an accomplishment, then many accomplishments build up to success. The higher the tower, or the more accomplished you are, the more successful you are, and the more you have fulfilled your purpose in life. But in God's Kingdom, purpose is not earned, it is received. This should not invoke any sense of laziness, either. For once we have received our true purpose, not our manmade idea of what our purpose should be, which is always based on comparing ourselves to others, then we are able to actually fulfill our sacred purpose as new creations in Christ. God working in and through you, always. In Job's case, he felt as though he lost his purpose—he lost everything: status, reputation, wealth, family. He thought God had taken his purpose from him. But nothing could be further from the truth! Job had finally entered his divine purpose in his time of suffering. When we begin to define ourselves in times of pain, we will often drift away from the truth. Our purpose is defined in God alone.

DISCOVERING GOD — JOB 17:1–16

– 1 –

Job's spirit was broken, he was ready to die. He was humbled beyond human repair. But God always listens to a broken and contrite heart.

(v. 1–5)

– 2 –

Those who are righteous will stay clear on God's path. We should always keep our minds focused onto God's Word and ways.

(v. 6–9)

– 3 –

Our hope is not in our suffering, but in the promises of God. When we face evil and things turn on us, it is temporary.

(v. 10–16)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The best way we can work through our trouble is to focus our attention on the goodness of God in those difficult times. Even when it seems there is no goodness left, God is always good. This is how Job's life was eventually saved and restored.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, MY HOPE IS IN YOU.
HELP ME TO REMEMBER
THAT SUFFERING IS ONLY
TEMPORARY.

Loneliness

JOB 21–25

DISCOVERING THE WORD

One of the reasons why the Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) program exists in Canada is to solve the problem of loneliness and depression. It is very sad. MAID permits clinically diagnosed individuals to legally seek suicide from a medical practitioner. In short, a doctor determines their health condition, and then a doctor decides if their life is worth living, and then a doctor ends their life. I hope you can see the issue with this whole process. Job, too, suffered with deep depression and loneliness when he was under trial. Job wanted to die. He was ready for it. But he did not take his own life. He pleaded with God first. He sought after Him who made his life. And for his faithfulness, Job was restored. We, too, should seek God in times of great sorrow and despair—He is our only hope.

DISCOVERING GOD — JOB 23:1–12

– 1 –

Job assumes that he is alone in his suffering, but he is not. We must always remember that we are never alone when we know Jesus Christ as LORD.

(v. 1–7)

– 2 –

Job hints that he is going to be restored. We have the promise of Jesus Christ that the LORD will keep us and help us to be restored.

(v. 8–10)

– 3 –

Job tells us and his friends that he has and will continue to keep God's Word. The Bible never lies, it is important that we keep it in our spirit and soul forever.

(v. 11–12)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The ways we successfully move through times of great peril is to know and understand the words of God our Father. When we know and accept Jesus Christ as our LORD, we promised Him that we would follow Him. The Bible is the only way to know the truth about how Jesus lived.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I MUST REMEMBER
TO READ AND HEED YOUR
WRITTEN WORD.**

Whispers of Thunder

JOB 26–30

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Some of the big questions that have confronted every curious thinker for thousands of years are about how the universe came into being and what, or Who, keeps everything in its place? Most big thinkers have seen God as the source of all things. But in the last three hundred years, some philosophers and scientists have worked extensively on the idea that life and matter came into existence on its own—no God needed. Granted, it is difficult, if not, impossible to conceive of how God can do all these amazing things, from creating space and time to keeping everything in motion and in synchronization. But the truth of something is not predicated on our understanding of it. We are finite created beings, after all. Truth is eternal by definition—that is why God is truth. Truth will always be truth, no matter the circumstances. So, what happens when an all-powerful eternal God, who is greater than the created material universe, speaks through space and time? Job says that the LORD can be heard in the softest of whispers, yet His thunderous power is beyond comprehension. This is when Job begins to recognize the inconceivably profound power of God.

DISCOVERING GOD — JOB 26:1–14

– 1 –

Job explains that no one can understand man like God. When we trust that God made us, we can trust that He can save us.

(v. 1–6)

– 2 –

Job describes how that God is in control over that which He made, light and darkness. The LORD is in control of all power. We trust in Him.

(v. 7–10)

– 3 –

Job expresses how that God's whispers are thunderous. The LORD can speak in many ways. Our spirits can hear Him if we have given our lives to follow Him.

(v. 11–14)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Sometimes we expect God to speak through big miraculous signs and wonders, rather than patiently waiting for a gentle whisper. That was Israel's problem in the Old Testament. God was consistently speaking in many ways, but the people did not hear Him. The same can be true of us today. Let's be still to hear and know God, even as we read His Word.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, HELP ME TO HEAR YOU AND WHAT YOU HAVE SAID.

Saying Nothing

JOB 31–36

DISCOVERING THE WORD

When we state the obvious, we are really saying nothing. There is a man by the name of Elihu who was arrogant, proud, and full of himself. He expected to reveal such wisdom that even God would be amazed at his thoughts. He kept quiet while Job's friends Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar commented on Job's plight. But now it was Elihu's turn to fill the air. He occupied the unanswered space with words that state the obvious. Interestingly, God wants his speech to remain in the Bible. Perhaps the LORD desires us to see the unjustified words of this man so that we can compare it to humble words of Job. Whatever the reason, Elihu says nothing helpful or relevant or valuable to the situation and expects all to marvel at what he says. In the end, God has Job make atonement for his three friends, but Elihu is not even mentioned (JOB 42:7-9). Arrogance is always blotted out.

DISCOVERING GOD — JOB 34:1–15

– 1 –

Elihu says many things, none of which are helpful.

There are times when the best thing to say is nothing.

(v. 1–4)

– 2 –

Elihu says nothing to Job, except to remind him of his problems. Many times we would do well to pray and keep our mouth quiet.

(v. 5–9)

– 3 –

Elihu states the obvious about God, to hear himself speak. Instead, let's bring words of prayer and praise to our great God for His justice and mercy.

(v. 10–15)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

There are times in life when we confront many words with silence. Sometimes the best answer to a hard problem is not an answer with words but with prayer. May we take our words and turn them toward the One who has all the answers.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, HELP ME TO DO THE RIGHT THINGS IN THE SITUATIONS I FIND MYSELF IN.

God's Storm

JOB 37-39

DISCOVERING THE WORD

I have experienced several tornados and hurricanes in my life. I'd really prefer not to ever experience those kinds of storms again. They are very loud and very lethal. While some are quick, others endure for a few days. But one thing is for sure, they are all destructive and devastating. No one truly desires to endure a storm!

In Job 38, the Bible says that the LORD answered Job out of a whirlwind. In Hebrew the word for storm is "sa'ar". God presented His answer to Job from the storm asking him over eighty questions. God's answer to Job was not from a calm, quiet whisper or a still voice, but was from the power of a storm. All the pushing and shoving Job had endured from his friends and foes alike was nothing compared to the storm of God. The LORD struck fear in Job and said, "Who is this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge?" (JOB 38:2). When you speak empty words, you sow the wind, and when you sow the wind, you reap the whirlwind (HOSEA 8:7).

DISCOVERING GOD – JOB 38:1-7

– 1 –

God speaks from the storm. The presence of God is not always simple or easy to endure.

(v. 1)

– 2 –

It is possible to propagate words without any knowledge. We must be careful what we say and how we say it.

(v. 2-3)

– 3 –

The knowledge of God is far beyond human thinking and intelligence. We should learn that our thinking is not above or unique to God.

(v. 4-7)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God says, "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." (ISAIAH 55:9)

There is no one anywhere at any time who can out think or outsmart the LORD. Let's remember that!

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO KEEP
MY MIND ON THINGS ABOVE
IN YOUR WAYS OF THINKING.**

The Reward

JOB 40–42

DISCOVERING THE WORD

A reward comes when a trial is finished. Job was rewarded at the end of his tribulations in return for his service, merit, and hardship. God gave Satan permission to test Job with limitations over his life, and while Job faltered at times he never failed. Satan was revealed by God for who he is: the father of lies. This is important for us to remember about the story of Job. The reason God allowed Job to be tested was because Satan accused Job of only being faithful to God because God had provided and protected him. However, God knew that Job would remain faithful in times of deep and desperate need. There are tests we face in life, and there is the reward of the life we have lived. Our goal should be to live our lives according to the way Jesus Christ lived His. The Holy Spirit of God will always help us as we yield to Him.

DISCOVERING GOD — JOB 42:1–10

– 1 –

Job repents to God for his words. There is only one way we can seek and find God, through our repentance.

(v. 1–6)

– 2 –

God told Job's friends to repent and bring offerings for them, and that Job would pray for them. The LORD will justify our words, if they are His words.

(v. 7–8)

– 3 –

God rewarded Job's losses and gave him twice as much as he had before. Our best life is not yet but comes in our eternal glorification with God.

(v. 9–10)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Our best life comes when we enter the full presence of God through the eternal promise of Jesus Christ our LORD. We will never see true and right justice in this life, but we will receive full and right justice by God in our eternal life with Him.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, THANK YOU FOR
THE PROMISE OF ETERNAL
LIFE WITH YOU.**

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