

January



THE 2026 BIBLE DISCOVERY GUIDE
GENESIS — LEVITICUS

RIBLE
ISCOVERY

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JANUARY 2026

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The Beginning

The English word *genesis* comes from the same Greek word, which means the source, beginning, or origin of something. In the beginning God created all things, visible and invisible. Therefore, the origin is God, not matter, math, or laws. In the first eleven chapters of Genesis, the entire foundation for the Bible is introduced. All doctrines flow from how one understands Genesis. For instance, Adam and Eve were real people whom God intentionally and directly created. Scripture does not even hint at the idea that the beginning of humanity evolved by accident as the result of time and chance. God had a design and a purpose, which we abandoned through sin.

Yet this was not Plan B, God knew we would fall into sin and death, and He knew we would need a Saviour. That is where the One called Jesus Christ emerges. 1 Corinthians 15:45 says, “The first man Adam became a living being. The last Adam *became* a life-giving spirit.” Christ came to make us new creations! Born again in spirit and raised to new life upon His return, eternally glorified in body, soul, and spirit. Praise be to God!



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How to use this Bible in a Year 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 insightful, thirty-minute devotional show that will change the way you see and read the Bible. Visit **BibleDiscoveryTv.com** to watch our show online or to find a TV channel in your area.

The Seed of the Woman

How the Messiah was destined to break biological boundaries.



After Jesus had been brutally murdered at the hands of the Romans, His disciples were confused, disappointed, and heartbroken. In their view, the Messiah wasn't supposed to die. But when the risen Jesus suddenly began appearing to them three days later it completely transformed their theology! Luke records one encounter in which Jesus appears to two of His disciples as they were walking and talking along the road to Emmaus. Though they were bewildered at the events that had transpired over the last few days, Jesus said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself." (LUKE 24:25-27)

... BUT THE MESSIAH IS GOING TO BREAK BIOLOGICAL BOUNDARIES BECAUSE HE WILL HAVE NO EARTHLY FATHER.

As Jesus pointed out to them, His death and resurrection was a key component of the Messiah's mission and was prophesied about right from the very beginning. As a matter of fact, the very first messianic prophecy comes as early as Genesis 3:15 just after Adam and Eve had fallen from grace. In the midst of God's judgment, the Lord in His great mercy promised to send a Saviour who would conquer Satan and restore humanity's broken relationship with God. God declares to the Serpent: "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." This first promise (even though it's not overly detailed) tells us quite a bit about the Messiah.

Notice first that according to this passage the Saviour will be both God and man. As the seed (or offspring) of a human woman He will be human. But He will also be more than that because He is the seed of a woman and not a man. This is extremely unusual since the Bible normally lists offspring as the man's not the woman's. One reason for this is because the man has the seed. The woman does not. That's just biology 101! But the Messiah is going to break biological boundaries because He will have no earthly father. Indeed, as the prophet Isaiah later explained, He will be born of a virgin (IS. 7:14). So this Messiah will be human, but He will also be more than human. In fact, He will be God Himself wrapped in human flesh. The God-Man.

But the Messiah will break biological boundaries in more ways than one because, as I previously mentioned, this Genesis 3:15 prophecy also hints at His death and resurrection (something Jesus likely related to His disciples). Notice how it declares that He will be "bruised" by Satan (i.e., through His crucifixion) but He in turn will "crush" Satan (through His resurrection). Genesis 3:15 is so powerful, not only because it accurately predicted these things, but also because this very first messianic prophecy preaches the very first gospel message: Man sinned and was subject to death (i.e., eternal separation from God) but the Lord mercifully promised to send a Saviour who would conquer evil and restore humanity's broken relationship with God. As the Apostle John would later write: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son (Jesus), that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (JOHN 3:16) ■

The Fall of Man: What Was Lost

What did humanity lose when Adam and Eve sinned?



The first chapter of the Bible establishes that God is distinct from the material things that make up the universe. He is not the universe, or the world, or nature, but He rules over these things. He created them, ordered them, and gave them purpose. To a people, like Israel, who were struggling with the reality of weather patterns, the ever-present danger of failed crops, natural disasters, and even predatory animals, God being over all likely brought them comfort. It was important for them to know what kind of God they were serving. And Genesis 1 let them know.

Just as the Spirit of God is said to have hovered over the waters of creation in Genesis 1:2, so God reigns even over the physical waters of the world. Water, as we still know today, is both devastatingly unpredictable and dangerous, and painfully necessary, lifegiving and sustaining. It is easy to see why water represented chaos in the ancient Mesopotamian and Near Eastern cultures that Israel came from. And the message of Genesis 1 is clear, God is even the master of chaos, He is over all.

Genesis 1 also lays out the purpose of mankind: to be rulers over God's creation. We were made to be images of God, yet not God ourselves. We were to rule the earth in God's place, however, there was a rule (**GENESIS 2**). Even though this rule was simple, don't eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, it is also profound. This rule created a choice for mankind: Would they be content to be rulers of creation under the authority of God, or would they need to cast off His moral constraint, would they need to become their own authority, their own God?

To be under God's authority meant safety, provision, and life. The garden was lush, safe—food and life were guaranteed. To cast off His authority and eat from the tree meant the exact opposite—death. This consequence is explained in Genesis 3: when Eve and Adam chose to disobey God and eat from the tree, they become aware of their vulnerability. Protection

was not the default condition of humanity anymore, and in fear they hid from God. What was once safety and protection was replaced by fear.

To Eve comes God's description of how life would now be. Up until modern advances of medicine, childbirth was a leading cause of death for women. As a result of Eve's choice, to give birth to new life would guarantee some death. Birth became a risky business. New life was now dangerous and uncertain. Life had become death.

To Adam, God describes how man's efforts to ensure food for themselves would be painfully laborious. Not just in hard work but in the inevitability that sometimes all the right work would be done and still what would come from the fields would be thorns and thistles. Hard work that should bring life sustaining food would sometimes reap only death. A failed crop in those days, meant death. The phrase "By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food" describes how farming would now bring great anxiety in the waiting: to see if crops would materialize; to see if their families would live for another season or starve.

Physical death is also referenced. Adam and Eve are banned from the garden, from their place of guaranteed provision, protection, and life. The Garden is now closed to them, guarded by a Cherubim with a sword. The tragedy and futility of human life is explained in the phrase "from dust you came and to dust you shall return". The ground was supposed to receive seed and produce food for mankind but now it will receive their dead bodies.

Mankind did not just lose immortality when they sinned against God. They went from having property and position, a guaranteed harvest, protection, and relationship to vulnerable, dysfunctional, and homeless beings. Beings who would need to struggle to create all these things anew. Purpose and provision had turned into survival and fear. ■

January

THE 2026 BIBLE DISCOVERY GUIDE
GENESIS — LEVITICUS



In the Beginning

DISCOVERING THE WORD

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth: This is how Genesis 1 opens the Bible. Everything that exists in the physical world begins here, and there are spiritual beginnings as well. The Scriptures tells us that God is the creator of everything; it wasn't time or chance that authored the universe. We are also given a timeline that became the blueprint of the seven-day week with Sabbath being the seventh day. As we move into Genesis 2, we are given a closer look at the creation of man that occurred on the sixth day of creation, back in Genesis 1. We learn about the nature of humanity, how men and women were meant to work together, both bearing the image of God. The relationship between man and woman begins without stress, competition, uncertainty or sin. These are the words that Adam spoke when he saw Eve for the first time, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman because she was taken out of Man" (GENESIS 2:23).

DISCOVERING GOD — GENESIS 2:1–14

God blessed the seventh day, and He rested from His work. The LORD does not sleep, but chose to dedicate the seventh day as one of rest.
(v. 1–3)

God gives life to man. Man is a spiritual creature.
(v. 4–9)

The rivers of water flowed from Eden. It is important for us to note that all life-giving water comes from God.
(v. 10–14)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The LORD our God is the creator of all things. He did not make things by accident; He made everything in His chosen and perfect time. If we wholly believe the Bible, we believe that God is the creator of everything.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD GOD, THANK YOU
FOR BEING THE CREATOR
OF ALL THINGS. THERE IS
NO OTHER LIKE YOU!**

Calling on God

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Genesis 3 records the fall of mankind. Eve famously succumbed to the temptation of the devil and ate the fruit from the only tree that was off limits. What is interesting is that it appears her husband Adam was right there with her, watching, and that he responded by following in her sin. The couple immediately became aware that they were naked and knew that what they had done was terribly wrong. This is when God comes to communicate in questions. Then, in chapter 4, we see the birth of two sons who would become enemies: Cain and Abel. We're told that God accepted Abel's offering but not Cain's, this stoked jealousy and anger in Cain, despite God appearing to him and giving him instruction. All of this led humanity to a grievous evil – the first murder. After Abel's murder, Adam and Eve have another son whom they name Seth. He takes a brighter and better path than Cain, but Genesis 5 brings us the table of nations who we see largely continued to indulge sin and evil bringing us to the time of the great flood.

DISCOVERING GOD – GENESIS 4:16–26

Many children were born to Adam and Eve, over the course of time.

Cain would have married one of his sisters.

(v. 16–17)

Deviation from God's original command emerged quickly, after the first sin.

From the beginning God commanded one wife and one husband, but sinful man chose differently.

(v. 18–22)

Men began to call upon the name of the LORD, because they were drifting from Him. In this present life, we must decide to faithfully follow Jesus Christ.

(v. 23–26)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Every day we must choose to give our life's work to the work of God's Kingdom. This means submitting our will to God's will. This is the challenge of living for the Lord Jesus Christ. It is not a matter of making a one-time decision but continuing to choose God's will, daily.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, HELP ME TO FAITHFULLY CHOOSE TO WALK IN YOUR WILL.

The Flood

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Things were not going well. Rebellion grew unchecked in the hearts of mankind. Sin was against God, and the people knew it: Adam and Eve had been warned, Cain had been warned. Humanity had all the knowledge from God that it needed, and they still chose against Him. Disturbingly, mankind began interacting with demons and dark spiritual forces, to the degree that strange flesh was created. God had no choice but to move in and save humanity from the dark possession of the demonic. This was the reason for the flood. Genesis 6 explains that dark possession, and Genesis 7 covers the rescue of Noah, his family, and the animals God commanded to be brought onto the ark. Genesis 8 tells us how and when the flood receded and new life began. In Genesis 9, we see God bless Noah, as his family begins the story of mankind again.

DISCOVERING GOD — GENESIS 8:1–14

It is the LORD God who stopped the flood. God

works directly all the time, even if we can't see it or we ignore it.

(v. 1–5)

Noah used the technology of God to determine

whether the water had dried up or not. God has always used His technology to determine all things.

(v. 6–12)

The land reappears and Noah waits for God's

timing to move out of the ark. Even though things look good, we must wait for God's will to move forward.

(v. 13–14)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

We learn from the incident of the flood that Noah did not overrun the will of God. He waited for the LORD's timing. When God is working, we must fit into His plans and not pursue our desires.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO
ALWAYS LISTEN TO YOU,
IN EVERY WAY.**

Following God's Way

DISCOVERING THE WORD

David was a good king with a heart after God. Knowing this, we often think of his reign as a type of golden age for ancient Israel. When we really look at the record of the Scriptures though we see that there was a lot of trouble in David's kingdom and life brought on by sin. David's son Absalom marked one of these horrible times. Absalom launched a successful rebellion in which David was temporarily kicked off his throne. It must have been a very dark day in David's life, and it all began with sin heaped on sin. One of David's sons Amnon allowed his unchecked lust to run his life.

Amnon was lustfully obsessed with his half-sister Tamar. This began because David had violated God's rules for kings and had instead accepted the culture's understanding of what kings should do: David became polygamous and married many women to further the royal line, having many sons and daughters.

Amnon raped Tamar, but he was never held accountable by his father David. Absalom, who was Tamar's full brother, took note and the time came when Absalom killed Amnon for the violation. In response, David banished Absalom to another city (2 SAMUEL 13).

What is notable is that David continued to not apply the law of God. After some time, Absalom came back into the kingdom and carefully established himself politically. He then rebelled against his father David, and David had to leave Jerusalem and his throne. Psalm 3 is David's writing during this troubled time (2 SAMUEL 13-19).

DISCOVER: PSALM 3

**Salvation belongs to the LORD!
Your blessing is upon Your people!**

Selah God is our help and our salvation. Only He is God, there is no other.

PRAY: PSALM 3

LORD, help us be careful to follow Your ways and learn Your truth. There is much we have done wrong and we ask Your forgiveness: we repent! Help us do things Your way.

Ur of the Chaldeans

DISCOVERING THE WORD

The Scriptures tell us that Abram came from Ur of the Chaldeans, which is in modern day Iraq. The ancient culture there was very sophisticated. It had amazing architecture and left a beautiful and complicated material culture. In this hub of ancient humanity, Abram was born to a man named Terah, around 2100 BC. Genesis 11 gives us the genealogy of Abram. His grandfather Nahor was 29 years old when he became father to Terah, but then lived for 119 more years! Lives at the beginning of Genesis are recorded as being much longer than the lives at the end of Genesis. The lifespan at the end of Genesis is within the range of what we would expect in our modern era. Abram's father Terah was significantly older when he had Abram at 70 years old. This may help explain why Terah stopped in Haran on the family's way to Canaan. At this point, Terah was elderly, and the journey must have been difficult for him. The Bible records that he passed away in Haran at 205 years.

DISCOVERING GOD — GENESIS 11:24–32

The genealogy of Abram is listed in the Bible, the world's best-selling and most popular book today. The LORD keeps no secrets. All can see the Jewish origins. (v. 24–27)

Sarai is mentioned as being barren; she had no child. Sarai was seen as cursed in that ancient culture, yet God gifted her with a son Isaac. (v. 28–30)

Before they enter Canaan, Abram loses his father in death. God is our Heavenly Father. (v. 31–32)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

We all have earthly fathers but, in truth, our real Father is in heaven. Jesus Christ taught us to pray, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name" (MATTHEW 6:9). We can clearly see the authority of a father-figure as important and necessary.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**OUR FATHER, HOLY IS
YOUR NAME, YOUR
KINGDOM COME, YOUR
WILL BE DONE ON EARTH
AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.**

Israel

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Genesis 12 begins God's call and promises to Abram. God's call to Abram is to separate from the other peoples on the earth and follow Him. God's first promise to Abram is that He will make Abram into a great nation that will become a blessing; to those that bless Abram and his offspring, God will bless, to those who dishonour them, God will curse. Jesus Christ is the ultimate fulfillment of this promise to Abram. Through Abraham's descendants, the Jewish people, came Jesus the Messiah who is the ultimate blessing to all of mankind. This is something that we can miss, if we aren't paying attention to the bigger picture as we read through Genesis. God is setting up and enacting the early parts of His salvation plan. Genesis 13 sees Abram moving to Canaan, a place where God will establish His physical promise so that in time, He would arrive there as mankind's Saviour. With all this spiritual significance attached to the land of Israel, is it any wonder that we continue to see fighting over this small patch of land?

DISCOVERING GOD – GENESIS 13:1–18

Abram was very wealthy.

The amount of money or possessions we have does not make us more important to God, fulfilling His call on our life does.

(v. 1–4)

Abram never wanted a fight; the land could not support everyone, so he let Lot choose where he would go. Israel is not looking for war, they simply want to live.

(v. 5–13)

The God of the Bible has given the land to Israel, forever. It is best not to move against God.

(v. 14–18)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Knowing the Biblical history of Israel changes how we see modern Israel. God carved out that physical space to reveal Himself in the past, and will also do so in the future. Let's be careful to stand with God and not quickly resist something that He might be doing.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, HELP THE NATION OF ISRAEL TO FIND YOU, HELP US TO HONOUR YOU.

The Astronomer

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Genesis 14-16 gives us a closer look at Abram. In chapter 14, we see how he was able to respond to a large-scale war involving nine kings: four against five. In chapter 15, God promises Abram that he will have a biological son. This seemed impossible to Abram because his wife Sarai was well beyond her childbearing years. This sets us up to understand Sarai's impatience or frustration in Genesis 16. After waiting her entire married life, she falls into the temptation to fix the problem on her own. She uses her Egyptian maidservant as a surrogate, according to accepted cultural practice of the time. This moves Abram into a time of crisis. Abram follows through on Sarai's suggestion of Hagar as surrogate, despite God having given him the specifics of Sarai being his future son's mother. This mistake has difficult consequences that reveal even more of God's mercies. And still, the original plan of God marches on.

DISCOVERING GOD — GENESIS 15:1–16

God promised Abram that He would give him a son.

We must learn to trust in what God tells us.

(v. 1–4)

When Abram believed what God had said, it was counted to him as righteousness. When we act on faith in God, we are rewarded with His faithfulness.

(v. 5–6)

God shows Abram the future in his dark dream.

God speaks to us about the future and prepares us for it.

(v. 7–16)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The LORD God prepares us for the future when we truly seek Him and trust Him. The Bible says that the just shall live by faith, meaning that we exist through faith in Jesus Christ. As believers, we should never doubt that the LORD is in control.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**HEAVENLY FATHER, I PRAY
YOUR KINGDOM COME,
AND FOR YOUR WILL TO BE
DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS
IN HEAVEN.**

Destruction

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Genesis chapters 17-19 are very eventful! God secures His covenant with Abram and renames him Abraham, meaning *father of a multitude* (GENESIS 17:5). In chapter 18, Abraham is invited into a discussion with God about the future of Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham intercedes for Sodom, asking God to spare the city if even ten righteous people could be found among the wicked. Unfortunately, Abraham should have gone further, because not even ten righteous could be found; only Lot and his family were righteous before God. In chapter 19, we are taken into the city of Sodom where Lot encounters two angels who have arrived in the city. The angels wanted to spend the night in the city square, but Lot would not let them. He was trying to hide the city's unyielding evil. The destruction of the city would begin that very night when the men of Sodom surround Lot's house wanting the men who were staying with him. Evil will not always remain hidden, it will surface time and again.

DISCOVERING GOD — GENESIS 19:1–13

Lot took the angels in and insisted they stay with him behind closed doors. We cannot hide evil. We must confess all violations to God.
(v. 1–3)

Lot tried to secure the men with him, offering his daughters as collateral. We can never secure a blessing, only God can truly keep us safe.
(v. 4–8)

Lot was almost raped and killed, but God's angels saved him. God had designated the city and its people for destruction, because they had become so evil.
(v. 9–13)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

There is only one way to handle evil in our lives: we must confess it to the LORD Jesus Christ, who has paid the cost for evil and sin. When we do that, the LORD has promised to forgive us of our sins and secure us for eternal peace.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I CONFESS ALL MY SIN TO YOU, AND ASK FOR YOUR HELP TO BECOME MORE LIKE YOU.

Faith Tested

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Genesis 20–23 show us examples of faith tested, faith failed, and faith well-lived. Genesis 20 records when Abraham lied to a king named Abimelech in order to save his life. This was a deep violation of trusting God. In chapter 21, God visits Sarah and Abraham in their old age and miraculously, Sarah becomes pregnant! This was a promise fulfilled by God. Chapter 22 highlights a faith confirmed, Abraham is willing to trust God in a sacrifice. In Genesis 23, Sarah comes to the end of her life in Hebron, so we see Abraham purchasing the cave of Machpelah as a tomb. Today, we are going to concentrate on Genesis 22 and the testing of Abraham and Isaac's faith. It is a stunning story. It is not only shocking that God would call Abraham to do this sacrifice, but also that Abraham would follow through! In the end, we see God stop Abraham, and give us a foreshadow of His own provision and sacrifice.

DISCOVERING GOD — GENESIS 22:1–12

God gives specific instructions to Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac.

The LORD directs us where and when to fulfill His commands.

(v. 1–2)

Abraham understood that God has the power over death and life.

We must follow the commands of Christ.

(v. 3–8)

God tested Abraham's

faith. As believers, our faith will be tested. We must be faithful to God.

(v. 9–12)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

When we are challenged in our faith, we need to recognize that it is a challenge. Only the power of God's Holy Spirit in us gives us the ability to achieve victory. Victory means we have won the war, it does not mean that we never go into battle. There are always spiritual battles we must defeat through Christ.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, EQUIP AND HELP ME
WITH YOUR HOLY SPIRIT TO
CONQUER THE CHALLENGES
THAT COME MY WAY, FOR
YOUR KINGDOM'S SAKE.**

Seeking a Wife

DISCOVERING THE WORD

As we continue to read, Genesis continues to be eventful! Genesis 24 shows us that Abraham is carefully building his lineage to pass on the promises of God. He sends his chief servant to act on his behalf in arranging a marriage for Isaac. In chapter 25, we see that after the death of Sarah, Abraham remarries and has more sons and daughters. To keep history secure, we are given the genealogies of Isaac, and the birth of his sons Esau and Jacob is highlighted. Their rivalry and the drama that unfolds because of it is also included, but before we become too preoccupied with that let's go back to the covenant made between Abraham and his chief servant with a mission to acquire a bride for Isaac. By putting his hand under the thigh of Abraham, the servant took a solemn oath, assuming the serious burden of completing the mission. Rebekah became the bride of Isaac, the mother of Jacob and Esau, a mother of nations.

DISCOVERING GOD — GENESIS 24:1–15

Abraham promised his servant that God would send His angel before him to accomplish his goal.

When we act in the LORD's will, God moves for us.

(v. 1–7)

The chief servant believed Abraham, and trusted the LORD. When we act on the will of God for others, we learn to trust the LORD.

(v. 8–9)

The chief servant acted in the faith of God, and God delivered. We must trust in the LORD, no matter how things look. God will accomplish His goal.

(v. 10–15)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

There are circumstances when it feels next to impossible to wait and trust in the LORD and His timing—we have to move on it now! This is when we need to remind ourselves that God answers all our needs and our prayers that are prompted by His work in our lives. Let's learn to rest in God.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO REST
IN YOUR PERFECT WILL AS
I CHOOSE TO FOLLOW YOU
WITH MY LIFE.**

Mercy

DISCOVERING THE WORD

David knew what it was to receive God's mercy not because he deserved it, but because he knew he desperately needed it. The best way to praise God is in recognition of our absolute need of Him. Psalm 6 is a radical revelation of human need for the mercy of the LORD. No one else could help David, except God.

David calls on God, boldly asking not to receive God's angry rebuke but, instead, God's mercy. The LORD does not tolerate sin, and David knew this, but David also knew that the LORD delights to show us mercy when we repent. He both demands righteousness and is willing to forgive unrighteousness when we are sincere. God has made a way for us! David says, "Return, O LORD, deliver me! Oh, save me for Your mercies' sake!" (PSALM 6:4).

We must acknowledge our failures and recognize that Jesus Christ has done enough to cover our failures. He gave His life for this! His life paid the cost for our sins, once and for all. Since Christ rose from the dead, He can offer us the gift of eternal life. In other words, when we believe and follow Christ, our life does not end! As Christians, we don't need the mythical Fountain of Youth, we only need the love of Christ.

DISCOVER: PSALM 6

The LORD has heard my supplication; the LORD will receive my prayer. We must realize that God is as close as the mention of His name!

PRAY: PSALM 63

LORD, help us to have faith in times of distress. We pray for Your mercy, Your grace, and Your salvation, as we live in this dark world. We desire to be Your children who trust in You to lead us in truth and make Your light to shine in the night. Help me to see Your amazing provision.

Manipulation

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Though Rebekah was an amazing woman and Isaac was a one-woman man, they still had difficulties. We see this play out in the later part of their marriage when it came to passing on the father's blessing. In those ancient days, the father was expected to give a special blessing of his family to the firstborn son. However, in their children's case it was a bit more complicated, not only because the brothers were twins and had discussed inheritance on their own, but also because the parents favored different sons; Esau was referred to as Isaac's son and Jacob was referred to as Rebekah's son. To complicate it further, Rebekah had earlier received a prophecy from God that their older son would serve their younger son (GENESIS 25). Technically, Esau was the firstborn, and he would have been expecting the blessing. However, with Rebekah's blessing and encouragement Jacob tricked Isaac into giving the firstborn blessing to him.

DISCOVERING GOD — GENESIS 27:1–17

Isaac gave his blessing

for food. When we follow God, He follows us. When we don't, He still does His will.

(v. 1–4)

Rebekah conspired with Jacob to trick her husband.

God's will, will be accomplished, one way or another.

(v. 5–12)

Women are key in working the will of God.

Yet Rebekah taught Jacob how to deceive to receive God's blessing.

(v. 13–17)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Many pastors and leaders have great wives. These amazing women are called by God, and He uses them to influence and help their husbands to do the right thing under God. Women, though you may be tempted, never give up your God-given which is to always lead others to God and His way.

TODAY'S PRAYER

I WANT TO FOLLOW YOU
LORD JESUS CHRIST. HELP
ME TO DO THAT WITH ALL
MY HEART.

Israel is Born

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Four women bore Jacob's children. His first wife, Leah, was given to him in marriage deceitfully. She entered the marriage with her maidservant, Zilpah, whom she would later use as a surrogate despite carrying her own children. Jacob then married Leah's sister, Rachel, who he had originally intended to marry. Rachel would also use her maidservant, Bilhah, as a surrogate. These women would be the mothers of the tribes of Israel. To have children in Jacob's time was considered a blessing of God, and this family history displays a major downfall of polygamy: competition and familial division. Even though the women's purpose for family building was tainted in their struggle to be the most loved, God still graciously expanded Jacob's family whom He would bless for the world's sake. The first four children of Jacob are from Leah: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah. Dan and Naphtali came from Rachel's maid Bilhah; Gad and Asher from Zilpah, Leah's maid. Issachar and Zebulun followed, from Leah. Finally, Rachel was able to conceive and she bore Joseph, then Benjamin.

DISCOVERING GOD — GENESIS 30:1–21

In Rachel's envy and Jacob's anger, a son was born through Bilhah.

Sometimes God uses our emotions to accomplish His will.

(v. 1–6)

In Rachel's struggle against her sister, a second son was born through Bilhah.

God can take our negative emotions and use them for His healing plans in our lives.

(v. 7–8)

All the sons of Jacob became the tribes of Israel.

The LORD builds His nation in spite of our hard and cruel human emotions. God always wins.

(v. 9–21)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God often uses negative things in our lives to make us know who He is and what He can do. The LORD's will is that we come to Him and change. This happens when we begin to follow His patterns, instead of reacting in our own emotions and creating our own pattern of living.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I DESIRE TO FOLLOW
YOUR WILL AND WAYS.
HELP ME KNOW THEM AND
APPLY THEM IN MY LIFE.**

Name Change

DISCOVERING THE WORD

When God began to deal with Jacob, Jacob moved to cleanse his household of evil. Even though they did not have the law of God yet (this would come with Moses later), they knew that worshipping idols and other gods was a violation against the one true God. In Genesis 35, we witness the change in Jacob's attitude. He was deeply affected by the encounters he had with God, his physical fight with God back in Genesis 32 had even left him with a limp. Now Jacob was beginning to pay attention to the LORD, and modifying his behavior to meet Him. The name "Israel" was given to Jacob by God Himself, and now the LORD reiterates it again. Jacob needed to pay attention. Israel means "God contends" or "one who struggles with God." God was beginning the construction of His specific nation. Today that name remains with us. Israel is still a nation! It survives as a witness to God's plan.

DISCOVERING GOD — GENESIS 35:1–10

Jacob told his family to get rid of any idols, to purify themselves because he had vowed his full devotion to God.

We must remember the great importance of personally seeking God.

(v. 1–3)

Jacob got rid of their gods and earrings.

How we prepare for seeking God is important; it is not about being comfortable, but being right.

(v. 4)

God blessed Jacob, and changed Jacob's name to Israel.

God has called everyone; God will fulfill His will, with or without us.

(v. 5–10)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God is not all about us and our feelings. We need to remember that there is a greater plan, and that we need to be all about God! When we place our lives in His calling for us, we find true joy and peace and purpose.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO
SEEK YOU ALWAYS, AND
DISCOVER YOUR WILL FOR
ME, THIS DAY!**

Esau, Edom

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Once again, our reading covers a lot of history. Genesis 36 begins by listing out the genealogy of Esau, who becomes the nation of Edom. Chapter 37 tells us about Joseph's dreams and what happens when his brothers become jealous and hateful of him. Chapter 38 introduces us to the unique and disturbing journey of Judah and his sons. Then Genesis 39 picks the story of Joseph back up, taking us with him as he goes from slave to prisoner to captain of the guard. Joseph's life is very interesting, but before we jump into it, let's go back and review the foundations of the nation of Edom. The Bible spends a bit of time on them, and it's important to see how the Bible explains the how's and why's behind people's trajectories.

DISCOVERING GOD — GENESIS 36:1–10

The nation of Edom was born to women from Canaan. Jesus Christ came to heal and save the whole world, not just a specific nation.
(v. 1–5)

Edom developed its future in Mount Seir, to survive. God will help us, when we seek Him where we are.
(v. 6–8)

Esau's foundations were recorded by God, in the Bible. God knows everything about us, where we came from and who we are.
(v. 9–10)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God desires us to seek His holiness through Jesus Christ. When we allow Jesus to take control of our desires and our lives, we change as people. We become interested in what God wants, not what we want. God's Holy Spirit will help us and teach us, as we seek Him.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I DESIRE TO SEEK
YOUR HOLINESS AND YOUR
WILL IN MY LIFE. HELP ME
TO STAY CLOSE TO YOU.**

The Prisoners' Dreams

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Our reading today brings us into the long saga of Joseph's life. Genesis 40 reveals that Joseph was so trustworthy and faithful in the prison he was wrongly confined to, that the captain of the guard trusted him with the care of the chief baker and butler, who were sent to prison by Pharaoh himself. Chapter 41 reveals Joseph's God-given ability to interpret dreams. Chapter 42 brings us back to Joseph's father Jacob who realized that Egypt was their only hope for survival. He commanded his sons to go to Egypt to purchase food. Let's now dig into chapter 40, and Joseph's unjust imprisonment. The Bible says, "But the LORD **was with** Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison" (GENESIS 39:21). God was always with Joseph, no matter what his outward circumstances were, because Joseph was faithful.

DISCOVERING GOD — GENESIS 40:1–14

Pharaoh's butler and baker each had a dream they did not understand, but Joseph did. Jesus Christ teaches us that we are a family, and each one of us has unique gifts.

(v. 1–6)

Joseph told the two men that God knew the meaning of their dreams.

We do well when we wholly lean on the provision of God.

(v. 7–8)

Joseph interpreted both of the dreams. God knows the answer to every conspiracy and mystery, we must wholly trust in Him.

(v. 9–14)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

There is a big draw into exploring conspiracy theories today. But as believers in Jesus Christ, we don't need to be terribly concerned – God knows the truth! God is never surprised or tricked. Let's trust in Him!

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME STAY
FOCUSED ON YOU AND
DIRECTED BY YOUR WORD,
NOT BY CONSPIRACIES OR
THE IDEAS OF THE WORLD.**

A Revelation

DISCOVERING THE WORD

In today's reading, we see Joseph's brothers get the shock of a lifetime. They truly thought Joseph was dead and gone, their sin and betrayal covered and in the past. But, through Genesis 44 and 45, we see Joseph reveal who he is. Then, in chapter 46, we see an amazing encounter that God has with Jacob, also now known as Israel. By this time in his life, Jacob is concerned only with what the LORD desires. He has been scammed too many times, lied to, and disappointed. He will only do what God tells him to do. Perhaps, this is the best place we can be in our lives. We all have to go through life, its ups and downs, the good, the bad, and the indifferent. We need to be willing to listen to what God desires, over and above what we want to do. Overall, this is one of the most dramatic stories in the Bible, and through it God shows His character.

DISCOVERING GOD — GENESIS 46:1–12

God told Jacob that He would go to Egypt with him.

Jesus Christ has promised that He will never leave those who follow Him. We are never alone!

(v. 1–5)

Jacob was going to Egypt, where God would make him a nation.

Each of us has evil in our lives, but God helps us to come out of it.

(v. 6–7)

The family of Jacob was about seventy people when they went into Egypt.

Our lives are nothing until we give ourselves to follow Jesus Christ, then He makes us something for His Kingdom!

(v. 8–12)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

One of the hardest things to learn in our Christian lives, is to submit to God's will instead of our desires. When we do, our lives become knit by the ultimate craftsman. God will protect us and help us to achieve all that He has commanded us to do.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, MAY MY THOUGHTS
AND THE DESIRES OF MY
HEART BE TOWARD YOU
AND YOUR WILL.**

Persecution

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Psalm 7 is a piece of music written by David when he was running from King Saul. David was not the king's enemy. He had not conspired against him or launched a rebellion, but he was the target of Saul's unquenchable jealousy and hatred for God's call on David's life. In turn, David writes this song of meditation to express God's call.

The LORD always takes the case of those who are persecuted in this way. Sometimes, as Christians, we become the target of people's hatred for God, even if they can't or don't articulate it that way. This Psalm is very relevant and meaningful to all who suffer for doing good. And none of us is immune from the possibility of suffering. Our case in point is David, the greatest king in Israel's past. If even he experienced such trouble, it is likely that many of us will too.

Today, we will focus on the way God delivers us. Remember that ultimately, our lives are eternal in Christ. Those who persecute us on account of Jesus have a very dark future. Even if there is not justice here on this side of heaven, there will be one day. We, too, like David, can sing and meditate on Psalm 7. Our hearts and lives can exclaim, "I will praise the LORD according to His righteousness, and will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High" (PSALM 7:17).

DISCOVER: PSALM 7:1-17

His trouble shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing shall come down on his own crown.

We must remember that God will protect His name and deliver us into His presence!

PRAY: PSALM 7

LORD, we pray today that as we worship You, we would teach others who You are. Help us to know how to follow You and show us Your ways. It is important for us to follow Your ways, even when that means sacrificing what we want.

The First Four Sons

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Genesis 47 ushers us into a new time for the people of Jacob. As they are introduced into Egypt and to the Pharaoh, they settle and grow over the next four hundred years. In chapter 48, word came to Joseph that his father Jacob was sick, so Joseph took his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, to visit. What happened next is extremely interesting: God revealed the future of Jacob's family to him. We get to read prophecies about the future of Israel's sons. Genesis 50 then describes the death of Jacob, which really meant the birth of the nation of Israel. Today, our focus will be chapter 49, and we will consider the first four sons of Jacob and the prophecies about their future. All that they had done would affect them within their nation of Israel. Though Jacob's physical sight had become hazy, his spiritual sight was clear as he delivered his blessings to Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah.

DISCOVERING GOD — GENESIS 49:1–12

Reuben was bypassed as the firstborn, because he gave into temptation (GEN. 35:22). How we live now affects how we will end. (v. 1–4)

Simeon and Levi were known for their cruel anger and judgment. Jesus Christ is the Judge, we are not. We should focus on what Christ has provided, not judgment. (v. 5–7)

Judah was the leader who would bear the lineage of Jesus Christ. Our King is Jesus Christ. Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is LORD! (v. 8–12)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The last words of Jacob to his sons would bear out in the future of Israel. Prophecy is a normal part of God speaking. We would do well to read the Bible, to know our future in Christ Jesus.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I COMMIT TO
READING YOUR BIBLE AND
PRAYING DAILY. HELP ME
TO STAY STRONG AND
STAND ON YOUR WORD.**

Changing Conditions

DISCOVERING THE WORD

In the first few chapters of Exodus, we see the times change for the nation of Israel. Israel had come into Egypt as a family of about seventy people, but we are told their numbers grew very quickly. A more concerning change was that since the time of Joseph, the Egyptian Pharaoh had changed. This new Pharaoh did not have an understanding of who the Israelites were, who Joseph was or how or why Israel had come into the land. He saw Israel as a threat and began to persecute them. Exodus 1 sets up these changing conditions within ancient Egypt. Chapter 2 gives us the beginnings of Moses' story. He was born to a cursed generation of Israelite boys: Pharaoh had ordered all male babies born to the Israelites be killed. Against all odds, God made a way for Moses to live. Chapter 3 continues Moses' story. He is grown and is forced to run from Egypt, intending never to return, until God appears to him. There is a lot going on in this story and it is fascinating! These chapters cover more than eighty years of really interesting time.

DISCOVERING GOD — EXODUS 1:1–14

The Israelites grew tremendously in numbers, over a short period of time.

Even in persecution, God's Kingdom always multiplies.
(v. 1–7)

Egyptian leadership became threatened by Israel, because of their growth. The Kingdom of Jesus Christ always threatens this world.

(v. 8–12)

Israel was persecuted in Egypt. We are persecuted today by those who hate Jesus Christ. But Christ has won the victory over those who persecute.

(v. 13–14)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Christian persecution is a very large issue around the world today. We don't pray for the death of those who bring persecution, quite the opposite, we pray for them to find the truth in Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is our victory.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, PLEASE HELP YOUR PERSECUTED PEOPLE! I PRAY THAT THOSE PERSECUTING WILL BE INTERRUPTED BY YOUR REALITY.

The Work Increases

DISCOVERING THE WORD

At the age of eighty, Moses was called by God to go back to Egypt. It was time for God's people to be released, time for Moses to face his past, time for Israel to head to the land of Canaan. I wonder if Moses knew just how much confrontation was in his future. In Exodus 4, the confrontations began with Moses needing to confront the people of Israel. In Exodus 5, he confronted the Pharaoh of Egypt, and in Exodus 6, Moses learned that he would see the power, force, and integrity of the Almighty God. He would see God bring to fruition His promise of rescue and deliverance. What a challenge to everyone involved! They were all used to the power of men, the power and force of the government of Egypt, but what would they do when confronted by the power of God? Chapter 7 continues the story with God telling Moses, "See, I have made you as God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet" (EXODUS 7:1). The LORD was establishing Moses as the leader of ancient Israel.

DISCOVERING GOD — EXODUS 5:1–14

Pharaoh resisted Moses' confrontation because of his pride. God's fight is never easy but Jesus Christ has won the war; we need to believe, in faith.
(v. 1–9)

Pharaoh increased the work demanded of the Israelites. The enemy of our soul often makes following God look too hard for us to do, but we need to be faithful.
(v. 10–11)

After Moses confronted the Pharaoh, Egypt punished the people of Israel. The LORD will confront Satan's grip on our life, when we come to Him. We need to follow God's lead.
(v. 12–14)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The LORD sometimes brings confrontation when we pray for Him to move. God accomplishes things in our imperfect lives, His perfect way. If we want to follow God's will, there will be many divine confrontations in our lives.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I ASK TO MOVE
IN YOUR WILL AND NOT
MY DESIRES. HELP ME
TO FOLLOW YOU AT
ALL TIMES.**

The Plagues

DISCOVERING THE WORD

In today's reading, Moses spoke to Pharaoh about the plague of frogs that would infest the land of Egypt. When they did, Pharaoh's magicians pulled off a similar trick. This seems to have served to minimize the power of God in their minds, but there was so much more to come. Exodus 8 records all the details of the plague of frogs, then lice and flies. Chapter 9 continues the plagues, opening with the plague of sick livestock. Chapter 10 handles the eighth plague of locusts and the ninth plague which was darkness. There is only one plague left for us to read about: the death of the firstborn, but before we do, let's focus in on the plague of frogs. It is very interesting when we consider that Egyptian culture had frog deities. The frog goddess could be depicted in the form of a frog, as a frog-headed woman, or as a woman-headed frog. She is believed to have personified regeneration, rebirth, and fertility. God was communicating His power over all things not only to Pharaoh, but anyone in Egypt who would listen.

DISCOVERING GOD — EXODUS 8:1–15

Through Moses, God told Pharaoh that frogs would overrun the Egyptians.

Jesus Christ is the LORD over everything, even how we think and believe.

(v. 1–4)

Through the power of God, Moses and Aaron had control over the Egyptian frog deities.

The LORD is over all forms of spiritual and physical manifestations.

(v. 5–7)

God caused the frogs to die off in the homes and places of the Egyptians. The LORD will show Himself as LORD, we must follow Him only.

(v. 8–15)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The LORD God was showing ancient Israel that He is the King of kings and Lord of lords. God is the great *I AM*. We must always remember that the LORD is over all things that exist! Only God is worthy of our praise and we should worship only Him.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I ASK FOR YOUR
HELP AND STRENGTH TO
ALWAYS LISTEN AND OBEY
YOUR WORD AND WAY,
IN MY LIFE.**

The Passover

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Israel's exit out of Egypt had longstanding impact. No longer would they be just a family, or a people group living within a country, they were forming into their own nation with leadership structures and a law code. They were becoming Israel the nation. God had given them that name back in Genesis 32 and 35. In Exodus 11, God explained the last plague to Moses. Then, in chapter 12, God gave instructions for Israel to be saved from the last plague: A procedure that would be celebrated every year since, as the Passover. Exodus 13 shows us the consecration of the firstborn of Israel to God. God said, "Consecrate to Me all the firstborn, whatever opens the womb among the children of Israel..." (EXODUS 13:2). God was about to move in dramatic and profound ways. He was setting Israel up to receive guidance that would impact all of humanity.

DISCOVERING GOD — EXODUS 12:1–12

The Scripture explains that Israel is about taking care of their family and their nation. Followers of Jesus Christ know that family is important, but so is fellowship.
(v. 1–4)

The people were to live with an unblemished lamb for four days, then kill it, roast it, and eat it in haste. We should always be ready, the LORD is coming quickly!
(v. 5–11)

God will make Himself known. The LORD will show Himself to everyone.
(v. 12)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Israel is not finished. As Christians, we are thrilled that Israel is a nation again. God has promised time and time again that He will show Himself to them. We should praise the LORD and pray for Israel and the peace of Jerusalem (PSALM 122:6).

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I PRAY FOR ISRAEL.
I PRAY FOR THE PEACE
OF JERUSALEM. GOD KEEP
THEM SAFE.

The Strength of God

DISCOVERING THE WORD

In our reading today, we see a lot of history happen quickly. The Israelites were officially freed from Egypt and began to move out. In Exodus 14 we are told of their unconventional exit route, they camped at Pi Hahiroth, which boxed them in between Egyptian controlled cities and the sea. In what should be no surprise to us, we see that Pharaoh changed his mind, yet again, and pursued Israel with his terrifying chariot force. It was to no avail! God, once again, miraculously rescued Israel, and in chapter 15 we read about Israel singing the song of Moses, praising God after their successful, impossible escape through the Red Sea. Exodus 16 takes us along with Israel as they travel to the Wilderness of Sin, between Elim and Sinai. In chapter 17, Israel moved to Rephidim where God enacts another miracle to provide water. As we read through their travels, let's note how many times and in how many ways God protects them. Through their story, He is revealing to us who He is. God was with them; He will be with us!

DISCOVERING GOD – EXODUS 17:1–12

When the people complained, God told Moses to take the elders and strike the rock. There are many times we need to see God's strength.

(v. 1–6)

Moses marked the place where the children of Israel doubted God. We should not tempt the LORD, but learn to trust and believe Him.

(v. 7)

God displayed the power of Christ, through Moses. Our victory comes through the power of our Saviour, the LORD Jesus Christ.

(v. 8–12)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Israel is an example for us of how to interact with the LORD. The Scriptures reveal God to us in so many ways. Today, as we contemplate ancient Israel's existence and experiences, let's appreciate God's power in history, in the present, and for the future.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR ISRAEL. I WILL CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR JERUSALEM. GOD, PLEASE KEEP THEM SAFE.

Easily Troubled

DISCOVERING THE WORD

There are times in life when we are so easily troubled. When the only thing that we can see all around us is difficulty and harshness. This is something that we all experience, and because of today's reading, we know that even King David, thousands of years ago, experienced it. So much of the Psalms takes away the layers of time and lets us see the very human hearts of ancient Israel.

Psalm 13 contains six verses of David explaining his feelings about ongoing trouble. He does not seem to be hiding his true feelings but rather is brutally honest with them. This is a key to praying: being honest. God does not require us hiding things from Him to make ourselves somehow more acceptable. God already knows what is in our hearts, we must acknowledge it and ask Him to help us deal with it.

It is very easy to become lost in our feelings of trouble. Like David, we can say, "How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?" Thanks to the Scriptures we already have an answer to this, don't we? We know that God hasn't forgotten us, we know that God loves us. 1 Corinthians 13 says that love, "bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails." We can apply the Word of God to our very real hurt, asking God to intervene and reminding ourselves of His goodness.

DISCOVER: PSALM 13

**But I have trusted in Your mercy;
My heart shall rejoice in your
salvation.** Remember—God's strength is available to us when we are honest in prayer with Him.

PRAY: PSALM 13

LORD, I want to be honest with You. There are times that I am weak and taken captive by my emotions. I need Your help with this, please fill me with Your Holy Spirit and give me strength to live for You in spirit and in truth.

The Law of God

DISCOVERING THE WORD

The Law was created by God to show the sinfulness of man in contrast to the holiness of God. This would shape the culture of Israel in a unique way. On this side of the cross, the Mosaic Law is usually broken into three parts: ceremonial, civil, and moral. The ceremonial law pertained to worship practices, festivals, rituals, and sacrifices, which foreshadowed Christ and were fulfilled by Him (EPH. 2:14-16). The civil law covered the governmental, judicial, societal, and cultural rules of the nation of Israel and were annulled by God when He established a new covenant through Christ (HEB. 8:6-7,13). While the civil laws are no longer applicable for Christians today, the underlying principles of justice and equity remain relevant and important practice. The moral law consists of universal and timeless principles still applicable today, such as the Shema, which Christ said was necessary for eternal life: Love God and love neighbour (DEUT. 6:4-9, LEV. 19:18; LUKE 10:25-27; ROM. 13:8-10)—the moral law reflects God's unchanging nature and will.

DISCOVERING GOD — EXODUS 21:1–11

Money is not the chief dictator in a business transaction: business is conducted with people.
Our life should be relationally motivated, not transactional.
(v. 1–3)

God says that the objective is to develop relationships, not to simply do business.
Relationship is the core of business, not money.
(v. 4–6)

God explains that people are not property.
The LORD builds His Kingdom in His people, not in money.
(v. 7–11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The power of God comes in people, not in money. The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil (1 TIMOTHY 6:10). Christians know this and work in their lives to make this truth predominant. We must first consider the people we interact with carefully, not based on the money involved.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I NEED MORE OF YOUR WISDOM AND GUIDANCE IN MY LIFE.

A Vision of God

DISCOVERING THE WORD

In ancient Israel, it was known that if you see the face of God Almighty, you will die. But there are many accounts of peoples and prophets meeting with God in unique ways, called a *theophany* in academic circles. Exodus 24 records one of these meetings. God chose to meet with the leaders of Israel. When they approached the mountain, “they saw the God” standing on heavenly sapphire stone paved beneath His feet. It says that “they beheld God, and ate and drank” (EXODUS 24:10–11). This is strikingly similar to when Abraham met and ate with the LORD in Genesis 18. There was a way to see the LORD and live. God, then, established a national covenant with Moses and Israel, which would foreshadow the coming Messiah and His new everlasting covenant (HEBREWS 8:6–7). The LORD was progressively speaking to and working with faithful men throughout history, and now the time had come to establish an earthly kingdom, Israel, to bring about the Kingdom of Heaven, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God” (MATTHEW 5:8).

DISCOVERING GOD — EXODUS 24:1–11

Today we are near to God because we have chosen the work of Jesus Christ. There are things that Christians understand that non-believers do not.

(v. 1–3)

God’s sacred covenant is defined in His sacred Word. The Bible is not a casual book. It is a sacred understanding of who God is and what He calls us to do to find Him.

(v. 4–8)

God shows us that while many are called, few are chosen. Christians have chosen to follow God. God has chosen them.

(v. 9–11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The Bible is not just a simple book made up of interesting stories and myths. It is spiritual in its design, profitable for salvation, and given to us by God to learn about Him. It is full of instructions on how to live our lives, to be like Jesus Christ. Let’s hear the Word of the LORD and make the Bible a daily part of our lives!

TODAY’S PRAYER

LORD, MY DESIRE IS TO READ, TO LISTEN, AND APPLY YOUR WORD IN MY DAILY LIFE.

The Tabernacle

DISCOVERING THE WORD

The construction of the ancient Tent Tabernacle is both fascinating and, in many ways, supernatural. At this time, Israel was in the middle of nowhere, walking aimlessly in the wilderness. Their central place of worship was constantly on the move. Now, when building the Tabernacle and its items, ancient people used very practical methods of measurements. For example, scholars believe a cubit was a measurement of length and was approximately 18-inches or the length of your forearm from the elbow to the tip of your middle finger. But these measurements varied depending on region and culture. Some translations of the Bible write the length in inches and feet, for sake of readability, but many translations still use the ancient terms for measurements and historical consistency. Either way, God gave the plans for the Tabernacle and its items to Moses, and commanded him to have it constructed by wise artisans and skilled craftsmen, filled with His Holy Spirit (EXODUS 31:1-4).

DISCOVERING GOD – EXODUS 26:1–13

God uses the Tabernacle to show that many parts can create one body. As we continue to grow in our faith, the LORD teaches that we are one in Him.
(v. 1–6)

God commanded that curtains be made to tent over the Tabernacle as a covering. God knows how to protect us on this earth; the LORD is our covering.
(v. 7–10)

God knew how the Tabernacle would survive in the wilderness with the Israelites. As Christians, the LORD prepares us and keeps us from evil in this world.
(v. 11–13)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The Tabernacle was an example of God's holiness and wisdom in contrast to the vile and brutal ways of man. Sin has created all kinds of storms and trouble which we will have to weather. But God prepares us for all the evil around us. God is our refuge and our fortress; He will cover us with His feathers and under His wings we will take refuge (PSALM 91:2, 4).

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO FOLLOW
YOUR WAYS AND KEEP
WALKING IN YOUR PATHS.**

Incense

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Incense was an important element of Israelite worship. In fact, the LORD commanded Moses to make a special altar for the burning of incense, about 18-inches wide, 18-inches deep and 36-inches high. The High Priest would carry burning coals from the altar of sacrifice outside the Tent Tabernacle, to the incense altar inside the Tent Tabernacle to keep the incense burning continuously. Like the anointing oil, God commanded that it was not to be replicated (v.37). The incense of the Tabernacle was holy and designed to be set apart from ordinary life. Once a year, Aaron would purify the altar by anointing its horns with sacrificial blood from the burnt offering made to purify the sins of the people. Psalm 51 and Revelation reveal why this was important: a broken and contrite heart is a true sacrifice, holy and precious in the sight of the LORD, and incense represents the prayers of the saints (PSALM 51:17, REVELATION 5:8, 8:3-4). Holiness, then, is God hearing a pure and repentant prayer of faith. He will always hear your heart cry.

DISCOVERING GOD – EXODUS 30:1-10

God gave specific measurements of the altar of incense and its horns were to be of one piece with it. The LORD teaches us how to change our lives when we come to know Him. (v. 1-2)

God instructed that the poles for the altar be overlaid with gold. The LORD creates a royal image of ourselves when we yield to Him; we are changed. (v. 3-5)

God commanded that only His holy incense be burned on the altar. The LORD has specific reasons for our callings. We are commanded to follow only God. (v. 6-10)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

There are many who have come and gone who have tried to resurrect the old covenantal structure to their own liking. But Paul says, “If I rebuild what I destroyed, then I really would be a lawbreaker” (GALATIANS 2:18). The gospel is simple, and requires a pure heart. Don’t be dismayed or carried away by every wind of doctrine, but stay true to the LORD and He will direct your paths.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, THANK YOU THAT
I CAN EXPERIENCE YOUR
PRESENCE IN MY LIFE.
HELP ME TO ALWAYS STAY
CLOSE AND FOLLOW YOU.**

Lord, Have Mercy!

DISCOVERING THE WORD

How do we best describe mercy? On the one hand, it is a simple term that is easy for anyone to understand, yet on the other hand it carries with it a great responsibility of knowing the truth about yourself and others. Without mercy, none of us would be living right now! Without mercy, every good thing we have done would be worthless. Without mercy, we would never be able to come to the LORD for forgiveness. Mercy is divine. And we are commanded in the New Testament to show mercy wherever we can, not at the expense of justice, but to complete it. After Moses came down from the mountain and smashed God's handwritten commandments, the people in Israel stood before God and pleaded for mercy. Genesis 34 is a wonderful example of how God showed His mercy, both to Israel and to Moses. We are sinners by nature; our hearts are deceitfully wicked above all things. We can be self-deceived. We need God's mercy to pick us back up, to refocus our attention on what really matters when we stumble and fall.

DISCOVERING GOD – EXODUS 34:1-9

The LORD told Moses to cut two new stone tablets and He would write down the same words as the first ones Moses smashed.

Sometimes we go too far trying to be righteous.

(v. 1-3)

God showed Himself to Moses, again. The LORD is perfect. He is right. He is justice. There is nothing dark or false in Him, and yet, He is merciful to us sinners.

(v. 4-7)

Moses appealed to the LORD again and asked if Israel could continue to be God's nation.

God has made a specific way for everyone to come to Him, through Jesus Christ.

(v. 8-9)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God has chosen people throughout history to help build His Kingdom. In fact, God has been building His Kingdom since the beginning of time. God knew there would be many people who would be among His Kingdom, but not of His Kingdom. One day, it will all be revealed.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I PRAY FOR ISRAEL
AND FOR THE PEACE OF
JERUSALEM. MARANATHA!**

Garments of Ministry

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Unlike today, the priesthood consisted of dedicated men who did not choose to become priests but were born into the tribe of Levi, specifically the clan of the Kohathites (**EXODUS 32:28-29**). They were selected by God, before they were born, to become those who would represent the people of Israel to the LORD. Both Moses and Aaron were Levites. In fact, Aaron was the first High Priest of ancient Israel. What is interesting to note about the priests is that they had specific garments and clothing that God commanded them to wear. They also had a specific lifestyle they were commanded to live by. What we read about in Genesis 39 is some of the details of the required uniform of the priesthood. How did they look? What colours did they wear? God was very specific about how the priests were to look to the people of ancient Israel. When we read about the way God commanded the holy garments to look and be worn, we learn that the LORD desires His called people to be recognized.

DISCOVERING GOD — EXODUS 39:1–13

God commanded that the clothing for the priests be holy garments of ministry for the LORD. The LORD commands that His work be unique and different than anything else in this world.

(v. 1–5)

The priest was marked to represent God's people.

The LORD shows Himself to this world through how we live our lives.

(v. 6–7)

The breastplate worn by the priest was nine inches square and had twelve precious stones representing the sons of Israel. We, as people of God, represent the Kingdom of God.

(v. 8–13)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Today, many have lost the sacredness of what it means to be a Christian. We are called by Jesus Christ to a new lifestyle; we are to make changes in the way we live with the help of the Holy Spirit. We are commanded to repent of our old lifestyles and love the LORD our God with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I NEED TO LIVE
AS YOU HAVE TOLD ME TO.
HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD,
HELP ME.**

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