

# June

A group of people are riding camels through a vast, arid landscape. The terrain is dry and hilly, with a winding river visible in the distance. The scene is captured from a rear perspective, showing the backs of the riders and their camels. The lighting is warm, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The word "June" is written in a large, white, serif font in the top left corner, with decorative wavy lines underneath it.

THE 2026 BIBLE DISCOVERY GUIDE  
JOB — ISAIAH

**RIBLE**  
DISCOVERY

# Inside this Guide

Welcome .....	3
How to use this Guide .....	4
Spotlight on History .....	5
Spotlight on Archaeology .....	6
June Devotional .....	7
About Bible Discovery .....	39
Contact .....	39

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## JUNE 2026

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# The Prophet Isaiah

**T**he prophet Isaiah is a royal prophet. What does that mean? Simply, it means that he had royal blood and, therefore, an aristocrat with full unrestricted access to the king. This does not mean that he had a lot of money. It means that the king would listen to what Isaiah said. Through His prophets, the Spirit of God would communicate to the kings of Judah.

There were four kings, to whom Isaiah's ministry impacted the most: Azariah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah. Isaiah lived from about 760-673 BC, and frequently gave God's Word to the kings and leaders, what God had showed him in word, dreams, and visions. This was the regular communication that God invested in His Kingdom.

From Jewish tradition, we learn about the end of Isaiah's life. Hezekiah's son, Manasseh,

became king and his reign was evil in the sight of God, and so he desired to kill the prophet of God, Isaiah. Jewish tradition says that Isaiah fled for his life when Manasseh pursued him. But when he was found hiding in a hollow log, the king's men sawed the fallen tree in half and killed the prophet within.

As Christ said, "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you" (**MATTHEW 5:11-12**).



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.

# 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.

# Mercy and Justice

*If God is loving and merciful, how could He order the complete annihilation of certain peoples?*



Although the Bible repeatedly declares that God is longsuffering and kind, and a God of love and mercy, there are several occasions where Divine order is given to destroy—and in some cases to totally and utterly destroy—certain nations and cities. Some of these include the complete annihilation of the Canaanites, the levelling of Sodom and Gomorrah, and the world-ending Global Flood. In fact, God even destroyed His beloved Jerusalem and exiled His own people off into a foreign land. It is such egregious acts which have caused many to reject God as loving and merciful, viewing Him instead “as a deity who required appeasement and blood sacrifice to satisfy his capricious lust.”<sup>[1]</sup>

## BEHOLD THEN THE GOODNESS AND SEVERITY OF GOD.

ROMANS 11:22

However, this cynical view of the Almighty is completely ignorant and unfounded. For one thing, these critics want to separate the God who is merciful and loving from the God who is righteous and just. But these ‘Gods’ are one in the same. Exodus 34:6-7 could not make this more clear as it first declares God to be “merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth” but goes on to say that He “will by no means clear the guilty, [even] visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children’s children.” (ASV) As Paul the Apostle put it, “Behold then the goodness and severity of God.” (ROMANS 11:22 ASV) To be sure, God is merciful and full of compassion,<sup>[2]</sup> and promises to save and have pity on anyone who repents and calls upon Him (ISAIAH 55:7). But God is also just, and therefore does not extend mercy to those who refuse to repent, but administers justice.<sup>[3],[4]</sup>

This fact relates to another problem with the critic’s view of God. The reason God brought destruction

on certain peoples was because “they violently and steadfastly impeded or opposed his work over a long period of time.”<sup>[5]</sup> Indeed, in each and every case God gave ample time and opportunity for the people to turn to Him and live. For example, God waited many years before judging the world with a Flood. In fact, He did not bring the watery judgment until “all flesh had corrupted their way on earth” and violence had filled the whole earth. He even sent Noah as “a preacher of righteousness” (2 PETER 2:5). But because “every intent of the thoughts of man’s heart was only evil continually” (GENESIS 6:5) the people had not the slightest intention of turning to God. In fact, they completely ignored His warnings and continued on with their everyday lives: “eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, [right up] until the day that Noah entered the ark” (MATTHEW 24:38). Similarly, the people of Sodom and Gomorrah were so wicked that not even ten righteous could be found there. The outcry against them was very great. Yet God waited more than three centuries before destroying those cities and He even sent them Lot, who, according to the Apostle Peter, was considered a righteous man (2 PETER 2:7). Even the Canaanites, who committed such vile practices as child sacrifice, sodomy, bestiality, among other offences (LEVITICUS 18:25, 27-30) were given over 400 years of mercy and grace to turn from their wicked ways. As the prostitute Rahab herself testified, the people knew full well about the power of the God of Israel. And the kingdoms of Israel and Judah were given roughly 750 and 900 years respectively and were sent numerous warnings through many of God’s prophets, before the Lord delivered them into the hands of the Assyrians and Babylonians.

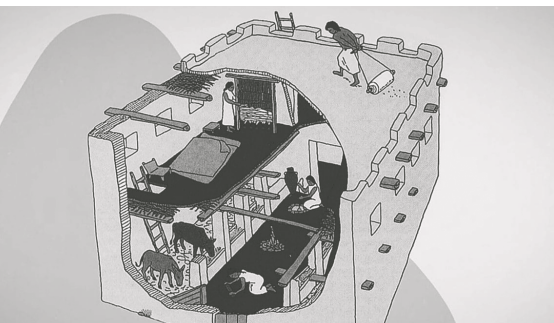
(continued on page 38)

# Hygiene in Ancient Israel

*How did the ancient Israelites stay clean and ritually pure?*



One of the weaknesses in the material archaeology of the Biblical world is in recreating the day-to-day lives of the people. Some daily articles made of more perishable materials do not survive in abundance, and without a written explanation of everyday life, it can be difficult to know with certainty how some objects, spaces, and life issues were dealt with.



A weak spot in our knowledge is how ancient Israelites dealt with issues of hygiene and sanitation. As humans, we've had experience with similar concerns: body odour and general cleanliness, laundry, human and animal waste, dishes, cleaning of the home, and garbage disposal. While our knowledge is not exhaustive, we do get help from the archaeological record.

For issues of personal cleanliness, laundry, and body odour, ancient Israelites had both religious and social motivation. Socially, it is very human that people wanted to mask unpleasant odours. Thanks to written sources, we know that perfume, incense, and bundles of aromatic spices were commonly used in all aspects of life to sweeten the air.<sup>[1]</sup> Israelites also had the added motivation from the Law of Moses that commanded ritual purity, bodily cleansing, and the laundering of clothes after various bodily functions. If they were inclined to follow the Law, we can safely assume their bodies and clothes met water and cleaning agents more often than they would have otherwise.

Regarding this ritual purity, scholars studied the four-

room house, a style that is bound to the presence of the Israelites in the land and was the predominant floor plan for Israeli homes throughout the time of the Judges and Kings. They have noted that these houses with their central rooms that provide access to all other areas of the house allow not only for greater privacy but also were ideal for observing the ritual purity laws of the Old Testament.

For privacy, a person or visitor did not have to travel through other rooms of the home to reach their destination but could have access to all areas of the house from the central room.<sup>[2]</sup> The advantage of this arrangement for ritual purity is that members of the household experiencing temporary ritual impurity could move around the house without coming into direct contact with others and also be able to keep up with their daily routines.<sup>[3]</sup> This is in stark contrast to other societies whose ritual purity laws forced unclean members to live in temporary shelters away from the main home.<sup>[4]</sup>

While general waste disposal likely varied from city to city several ancient toilet seats have been discovered in excavations.<sup>[5]</sup> In the city of Jerusalem two of these seats were found still in their ancient place, each over a cesspit.<sup>[6]</sup> When archaeologists examined the remains of the cesspits, they revealed what a difficult situation ancient Jerusalem must have been in during the days leading up to the Babylonian destruction. And for our interest today, they revealed that liming agents were dumped into the cesspits to facilitate the breakdown and sanitation of these ancient latrines.<sup>[7]</sup> It is believed that these types of accommodations may have been reserved for the upper classes of society.<sup>[8]</sup> ■

## SPOTLIGHT FOOTNOTES

- 1 Nielsen, Kjeld. "Ancient Aromas," *Bible Review* 7.3 (1991): 26-28, 30-33.
- 2 Faust, Avraham. "Purity and Impurity in Iron Age Israel," *Biblical Archaeology Review* 45.2 (2019): 36-43, 60, 62.
- 3 Bunimovitz, Shlomo, and Avraham Faust. "Ideology in Stone," *Biblical Archaeology Review* 28.4 (2002): 33-37, 39-41.
- 4 Faust, Avraham (2019). Bunimovitz, Shlomo, and Avraham Faust (2002).
- 5 Cahill, Jane M., et al. "It Had to Happen," *Biblical Archaeology Review* 17.3 (1991): 64-69.
- 6 Cahill, Jane M., et al.
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- 8 Cahill, Jane M., et al.

# June

THE 2026 BIBLE DISCOVERY GUIDE  
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# God and Man

## DISCOVERING THE WORD

Getting to know God humbles us like nothing else. We can really believe that we understand ourselves and the world around us, but as we get to know the truth of God, our outlook changes. We will inevitably begin to see the spiritual reality behind the world and even behind our own decisions, and it can be shocking. God is so great, unlimited, patient, and kind. He is also truthful, all knowing, all powerful, and interested in helping us. When Job and his friends are finally out of words, God confronts Job, He says, “Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me” (JOB 40:7). What a challenge. Prepare yourself like a man to speak to the Creator of the universe! The Psalms give us some insight into proper ways to respond, Psalm 150:6 says, “Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.”

## DISCOVERING GOD – JOB 40:1-14

**Job confesses before the LORD that he has nothing left to say.** We must learn to praise the LORD at all times.  
(v. 1-5)

**God demands an answer from us.** We should always lead our prayers with praise and admiration toward God, rather than our demands.  
(v. 6-7)

**We should not live in pride, but as humble and meek before God.** The LORD will show others who He is, through our attitudes and life.  
(v. 8-14)

## DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

It is only when we come to God in repentance and live to seek and follow Him that the LORD will make us holy. We are weak and He is strong. He is completely able to change our lives, even in areas where we have repeatedly failed.

## TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I AM WEAK BUT YOU ARE STRONG. THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME TO LEARN AND GROW IN YOUR WILL AND GRACE.**

# The Book of Wisdom

## DISCOVERING THE WORD

The book of Proverbs is categorized as wisdom literature, and as we read through its pages, we can see that it does highlight practical wisdom. It urges its readers to learn from its words, rather than having to learn through their own mistakes. Proverbs ultimately shows us that the source of all true wisdom is a humble, faith-filled relationship with God. It is structured in a really interesting way: The first section begins with dialogue that parents would have with their child, and the second section contains short, wise or trustworthy sayings. The author of Proverbs is believed to have been King Solomon, stemming not necessarily from a faithful life but from a gift of God that is described in 1 Kings 4:30-32. Proverbs 25:1 also tells us that the latter parts of the book were collected long after Solomon's life by the court members of King Hezekiah. Hezekiah reigned sometime between 729-699 BC, and claims to have added proverbs of Solomon to the official book of Proverbs that had previously been written elsewhere.

## DISCOVERING GOD – PROVERBS 4:1-13

### Keeping the commands of God means we will live.

We can lose ourselves in the sludge of sin culture when we are proud in our own decision making.

(v. 1-4)

**We should never assume that we have God's wisdom, but seek it always.** It is a problem when we make decisions without God's divine wisdom.

(v. 5-9)

### When we listen and obey God, He will teach us wisdom.

We must spend time and seek God for the decisions we make in our life.

(v. 10-13)

## DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

As people living in a sinful world, we need to be careful about how we act and react in every situation. God sanctifies us by teaching us His wisdom. When we listen and obey Him, He will teach us and lead us in a straight path.

## TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I SEEK YOUR WAYS  
IN MY LIFE. HELP ME TO  
LISTEN AND FOLLOW YOU  
IN EACH DECISION THAT  
I MAKE.**

# Save Yourself

## DISCOVERING THE WORD

How we live reveals who we are. We can claim all kinds of moral truths for ourselves. We can talk about different ways that we love well, live well, think well, and do good. Yet we all know that at the end of the day, it is not just what we say but what we do. Do our words and actions match? Hypocrisy always reveals itself when we pay attention. Hypocrisy is a term so often thrown at Christians, and sometimes rightly so. As Christians, we accept that God's morality is the way we need to live, even though we so often fall short. Falling short however, is not the same thing as purposefully deceiving people into thinking you are a good or godly person. True hypocrisy mocks the ways of God and drives people from the gospel. But Christianity rightly lived displays the gospel even in our failures; humility and repentance pave the way to a true understanding of what it means to follow God. Proverbs 7 explains to us how we can either maintain our lives or lose them depending on our decisions.

## DISCOVERING GOD — PROVERBS 7:1-20

**The best way to stay out of temptation is to closely honour God's wisdom.**

When we do, we keep ourselves from the exposure of evil.

(v. 1-5)

**Many times we go to places that tempt us and are not good for us.** It is

best for us to stay clear of the path of temptation and turn toward God.

(v. 6-9)

**Evil is best illustrated in our desires without God.**

We would do well to keep our desires under God's provision.

(v. 10-20)

## DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

We must be faithful. In our fallen world we will be tempted to do things our own way, for our own pleasure. This is why sexuality is such a temptation for human beings; it offers us temporary pleasure. It makes us feel good even if for a short time. But when we operate outside of God's ways, we fall into fatal states of decline. We must ask God for help to stay faithful to Him.

## TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I NEED TO BECOME MORE LIKE YOU. HELP ME SHIFT MY LIFESTYLE TO OBEY AND FOLLOW YOU.**

# It Is Good to Work

## DISCOVERING THE WORD

We were designed to work. God created humans with inherent purpose. Right from the beginning of the world humans had responsibility, and it was good! However, sin, our disobedience to God, has polluted our desires. Today, when we talk about work, we have a whole ocean of ideas that we have to swim through. But the bottom line is that you and I should work diligently. It is a part of our good design. Not only should we work to feed and clothe ourselves and our families, we should also work to follow God. By that I mean that we should not be afraid of effort. Let me be clear: Jesus Christ did all the work for our salvation! Nothing we could do could save our souls. What is left is for us to choose Him, which we can do because He made the way. Next, we must be willing to follow Him and then carefully do so! If we choose poorly, we will bear the consequences. Proverbs 10 gives us examples of choosing wisely and well.

## DISCOVERING GOD — PROVERBS 10:1–5

**Wisdom, and acting in its direction, has effects on our family.** When we act wisely, we do so responsibly and not for personal enrichment.  
(v. 1)

**The desires of the wicked are never good.** The wise in Christ are granted favor by God.  
(v. 2–3)

**God created us to work for our living.** Even in the Garden of Eden, the LORD had assignments for Adam and Eve.  
(v. 4–5)

## DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

It is not wise for us to live life attempting to get something for nothing. It is also not wise to live for the sole purpose of gaining wealth. Working for our sustenance is a good discipline, and like all things we must keep it in healthy check.

## TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO KEEP MY FOCUS BALANCED AND BE AWARE AND FOLLOW YOUR PLAN FOR MY LIFE.**

# What We Say Matters

## DISCOVERING THE WORD

James, the half-brother of Jesus, warned us about what we say. James says, “Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things” (JAMES 3:4-5). James goes on to say that our tongue often gets us into trouble. Have you ever said something you wished you could take back? God’s wisdom can really help us in this area. Our reading today describes how we should not talk. The word “scoffer” is used in the first verse of Proverbs 13, and it describes mocking or speaking arrogantly. We do not have to look long or hard to find examples of it in our society. We even elevate people for such things. How many actors, comedians or influencers have built their whole careers on mocking or arrogant speech?

## DISCOVERING GOD — PROVERBS 13:1–4

**We are wise when we choose our responses carefully.** Let's live with care and learn to accept good correction in our sin-filled world.  
(v. 1)

**What we say and how we talk reveals who we are.** We are wise to pray about our verbal actions and reactions.  
(v. 2–3)

**We act wisely when we desire to work and do so.** It is not good for us to be lazy and dependent on others, when we can work.  
(v. 4)

## DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

We must be careful not to make excuses for ourselves. Wisdom requires that we speak well and live well. There are very few people who truly cannot work to survive. We need to do what we can to become useful and helpful. God can help us in all these areas.

## TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I WANT TO WORK AND BECOME USEFUL AND HELPFUL TO OUR WORLD.**

# A Heart Condition

## DISCOVERING THE WORD

In 2021, there were about 68 million people who died world-wide, 17% of them perished because of heart disease. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in our world. When we talk about the physical heart, everyone knows what we are referring to. But in the English language we also speak about the feelings in the mind and call that the *heart* of our soul. What is the condition of your soul? What is the state of your heart? The book of Proverbs tells us that the condition of our heart and soul is critical for godly success in life. In chapter 16 of this amazing book, the first verse says, “The preparations of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD” (**PROVERBS 16:1**). There will be many things that happen to us that we are not ready for in this life but if we have prepared our heart, God will help and deliver us.

## DISCOVERING GOD — PROVERBS 16:1–6

**Sometimes we have ideas we think are good, but they are outside of God’s good will.** We should prepare our hearts daily by reading God’s Word and praying through His Word. (v. 1-2)

**When we commit everything we do to the LORD daily, we have the assurance that God will oversee our steps.** God created everything to be used for His will; nothing is outside of His control. (v. 3-4)

**Pride is always the signature of failure.** When we do things God’s way and do His will, we have true success. (v. 5-6)

## DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The things we discover and do are not a result of our brilliance in learning but because God has given us the ability to think, invent, and develop. When we do things God’s way, things are always better.

## TODAY’S PRAYER

**LORD, I WANT TO THINK, INVENT, AND DEVELOP THINGS YOUR WAY. HELP ME TO ALWAYS SEEK AND FOLLOW YOU.**

# Learning to Trust

## DISCOVERING THE WORD

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Trusting in God is not something we say and then suddenly we feel great about ourselves. It is very difficult at times. It is something we learn and grow in all the days of our lives. It is very much something we feel regularly because trusting in the LORD becomes our lifestyle; it is something we learn never to forget. A good example may happen like this: Suddenly you are faced with an impossible circumstance. But you are not alone! You have Someone to pray to, who cares for you. You can talk to God about your difficulty and He will respond to you – perhaps not the same way every time – but He is always right. You can rest assured of that!

Trust in the LORD is also something you should communicate to the next generation. In fact, your children, and their children, need examples in your life to show them who they can trust. Psalm 71:18 says it this way, “Now also when I am old and gray headed, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come.” We need to trust in God because as He teaches us we can teach it to our children (**SEE DEUTERONOMY 6:7**).

Psalm 71 is critically important because it teaches us to live our trust in the LORD. When we do, we set an example for the next generations to see. And while the LORD must be uncovered and discovered in every generation, when it can be easier to see that trust in previous generations, it is better for the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

## DISCOVER: PSALM 71:1–24

**My tongue also shall talk of Your righteousness all the day long; For they are confounded, for they are brought to shame who seek my hurt.** Lord, help me learn to trust in You!

## GUIDED PRAYER

In You, O LORD, I put my trust. Help me to learn what that means in every way, every day of my life. Help me as I face the things that life brings on, with Your strength.

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