

the one year[®]
THROUGH
the BIBLE
devotional



With devotionals by David R. Veerman



TYNDALE HOUSE PUBLISHERS, INC.
CAROL STREAM, ILLINOIS

Visit Tyndale's exciting Web site at www.tyndale.com

TYNDALE and Tyndale's quill logo are registered trademarks of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.

The One Year is a registered trademark of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.

The One Year through the Bible Devotional

Copyright © 2000, 2007 by Livingstone Corporation. All rights reserved.

Cover photos of man reading, apple, hand, and salt shaker copyright © by Veer. All rights reserved.

Cover photo of dirt copyright © by Jim Ernsbergert/SXC.hu. All rights reserved.

Designed by Erik Peterson

Edited by S. Harrison

Previously published in 2000 as *One Year through the Bible* by Tyndale House Publishers under ISBN-13: 978-0-8423-3553-9 and ISBN-10: 0-8423-3553-6.

The One Year through the Bible Devotional first published in 2007.

Scripture quotations are taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

The Library of Congress has cataloged the first edition as follows:

Veerman, David

One Year through the Bible : with devotionals / by David R. Veerman and Daryl J. Lucas.

p. cm.

ISBN 0-8423-3553-6 (pbk.)

1. Bible—Reading. 2. Bible—Devotional literature. 3. Devotional calendars. I. Lucas, Daryl.

II. Title.

BS617.V44 2000

242'.2—dc21

00-044704

ISBN-13: 978-1-4143-1299-6

ISBN-10: 1-4143-1299-7

Printed in the United States of America

13 12 11 10 09 08 07

7 6 5 4 3 2 1

INTRODUCTION

CENTURIES AGO, THE APOSTLE PAUL wrote to his young protégé, Timothy: “All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives” (2 Timothy 3:16). Note that Paul said “*all* Scripture”—not a part or some, but all. *All* means all of the Bible, every part and every type of literature—law, history, poetry, prophecy, Gospel, epistle, and apocalypse.

That short passage in Paul’s letter also emphasizes what Scripture does: “It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16–17). In other words, the Bible tells us how to live by showing us what God wants. As we read Scripture, we need to think about what God is revealing about himself and what he is telling us to do—what actions to take and what changes to make.

This book helps you do just that—read and apply the Bible. Here’s how it works:

- Each day features a daily reading, highlighted in the middle of the page. If you read all these passages from your Bible, you will read the entire Bible in a year.
- From each of the daily reading passages, we have selected a short excerpt, which is included on the same page. If you read only those smaller passages each day, you will get a sampling of the whole Bible, hitting the highlighted stories and teachings.
- Each selected Scripture passage also ties to a daily devotional reading, which is designed to help you understand the passage and apply it to your life.

I pray that God will use this book to impact your life, giving you a deeper appreciation and understanding of “all Scripture.”

DAVE VEERMAN

Diets can be maddening because they make it so difficult to stick to your convictions. The plan looks great, with a limit on calories or grams of fat per day and a list of prohibited or acceptable edibles. But when offered a piece of pie, you give in to the temptation, forgetting your diet and your resolution to lose weight. This struggle is real. It's war.

This passage right at the beginning of the Bible tells all about the origin of the world, life, people, and work. It also covers husband-wife relationships. Closest to home, it explains how a perfect world went wrong and why human beings have struggled since then against all sorts of evil. It tells about temptation.

..... **Read Genesis 1:1-3:24**

Everyone struggles with temptation. We are tempted to lie, to cheat, to steal, and to indulge ourselves in countless ways that God has forbidden. We give in because of Satan (Genesis 3:1-6). Temptation is Satan's invitation to live his kind of life and give up on God's. Satan tempted Eve and succeeded in getting her to sin; soon after, Adam yielded to the pull of Satan's tempting offer. So sin entered the world, and every person since has been born a sinner. Today, Satan is busy trying to get us to give in to his temptations.

Eve and Adam could have resisted temptation by remembering what God had commanded them. We must realize that being tempted is not sin. We have not sinned until we give in to the temptation. To resist temptation, we must (1) pray for strength to resist (see Matthew 6:13), (2) say no when confronted with what we know is wrong (see James 4:7), and (3) run away from the temptation, sometimes literally (see Genesis 39:12). James 1:12 tells of the blessings and rewards for those who don't give in when tempted.

As you read about the tragic fall of our perfect ancestors, watch the progression of temptation and sin. Then determine to obey God rather than believe Satan's lies. Resist Satan and his temptations, and live.

¹The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?" ²"Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden," the woman replied. ³"It's only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, 'You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.'" ⁴"You won't die!" the serpent replied to the woman. ⁵"God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil." ⁶The woman . . . saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious. . . . So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too.

GENESIS 3:1-6

³When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the LORD. ⁴Abel also brought a gift—the best of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The LORD accepted Abel and his gift, ⁵but he did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected. ⁶“Why are you so angry?” the LORD asked Cain. . . . ⁷“You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master.” ⁸One day Cain suggested to his brother, “Let’s go out into the fields.” And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother, Abel, and killed him. ⁹Afterward the LORD asked Cain, “Where is your brother? Where is Abel?” “I don’t know,” Cain responded. “Am I my brother’s guardian?”

GENESIS 4:3-9

happens to those who refuse to admit their mistakes. It also shows what happens when we blame others for our problems and allow anger to build.

As you read this passage, learn from Cain’s mistakes. Then the next time someone suggests you are wrong, especially God, take an honest look at yourself, and make the necessary changes.

How do you react when someone suggests that you have done something wrong? Do you move to correct the mistake, or do you deny that you have a problem or need to do anything? What about when the critic is someone in your family?

This reading describes Adam and Eve’s immediate family. It focuses mostly on Cain, the first son—his choices and what God thought of them. Don’t read too fast or you will miss important details—but it’s all there, including the most horrifying fact of all: Cain killed his brother, Abel. Our experiences today mirror what occurred between these two brothers, however horrifying, because theirs is the story of what can happen when anger and jealousy rule.

Tangles in the ties that bind—reacting to criticism, jealousy, sibling rivalry—all appear in this passage. The lessons bear remembering, so you’d better go slow.

Read Genesis 4:1–5:32

Cain’s failures hinged on his reaction to God’s rebuke (Genesis 4:6–7). We don’t know why God rejected Cain’s sacrifice. But instead of listening to God, learning, and changing his ways, he reacted impulsively. Cain was wrong, yet he would not accept responsibility for or deal with it. He countered God’s correction with anger and denial.

After Cain’s sacrifice was rejected, God gave him the chance to right his wrong and try again. God even encouraged him to do so, but Cain proudly refused.

The rest of Cain’s life is a startling example of what

The end of the world is always near, according to somebody. This person’s placard states that we had better change our ways—or die. That group proclaims that the Lord will return one hundred days after the next presidential election. Each week brings numerous alarms from environmental and nutritional activists or religious and political zealots. Most people stopped listening long ago to the warnings of these “kooks” or “extremists,” as they are labeled.

That’s probably how people responded to Noah. This passage tells the story of the Flood, how Noah and his family built an ark in obedience to God, in response to his warning that the earth would be destroyed. Only a few generations had passed since Adam and Eve, yet Noah was the only righteous person living. The Bible doesn’t state that people mocked Noah, but it certainly shows that no one listened to him or to God. This familiar story pictures God’s mercy and the consequences when people forget (or stop caring) about their Creator.

The story also gives a snapshot of patience (living in an ark for more than a year); doing what is right in the face of criticism and ridicule (“Why would you build an ark now and here?”); and gratitude (for God’s mercy).

Read Genesis 6:1–8:22

Noah got right to work when God told him to build the ark (Genesis 6:22). It seems that other people had been warned about the coming disaster (see 1 Peter 3:20) but, apparently, did not expect it to happen. This is how people today often react to warnings, even warnings from God. Each day, thousands are told of God’s inevitable judgment, yet most don’t really believe it will occur. Don’t expect people to welcome or accept your message of God’s coming judgment on sin. Those who don’t believe in God will scoff at his judgment and try to get you to deny God as well.

As you read this passage, note God’s covenant with Noah to keep him safe and God’s promise to the world. Then determine to do what God tells you to do, despite the opposition, trusting him to bring you through the flood.

⁹This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, the only blameless person living on earth at the time, and he walked in close fellowship with God. ¹⁰Noah was the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. ¹¹Now God saw that the earth had become corrupt and was filled with violence. ¹²God observed all this corruption in the world, for everyone on earth was corrupt. ¹³So God said to Noah, “I have decided to destroy all living creatures, for they have filled the earth with violence. Yes, I will wipe them all out along with the earth! ¹⁴Build a large boat from cypress wood and waterproof it with tar, inside and out. Then construct decks and stalls throughout its interior. . . .” ²²So Noah did everything exactly as God had commanded him.

GENESIS 6:9-14, 22

¹At one time all the people of the world spoke the same language and used the same words. ²As the people migrated to the east, they found a plain in the land of Babylonia and settled there. ³They began saying to each other, "Let's make bricks and harden them with fire." . . . ⁴Then they said, "Come, let's build a great city for ourselves with a tower that reaches into the sky. This will make us famous and keep us from being scattered all over the world." ⁵But the LORD came down to look at the city and the tower the people were building. ⁶"Look!" he said. "The people are united, and they all speak the same language. After this, nothing they set out to do will be impossible for them! ⁷Come, let's go down and confuse the people with different languages. Then they won't be able to understand each other."

GENESIS 11:1-7

We build monuments to great moments and great people. "Lest we forget" is etched on the bronze plates of more than one statue. But monuments are more than just memory aids; in building them we want, above all, to glorify something. We want to honor a person or idealize an event.

Shortly after the Flood, God made a covenant (or agreement) with Noah and his descendants. But soon the people forgot God, his goodness, his deliverance, his judgment, and his promise. And they became impressed with themselves, so much so that they decided to erect a monument—to themselves. They built their tower to glorify their greatness; it became, instead, a memorial to their (and our) greatest foolishness—human arrogance.

We can learn several lessons in this passage: (1) God is good and merciful to us. (2) God is greater than we are. (3) All humans are connected by sin.

Read Genesis 9:1–11:32

The people in this story built the Tower of Babel for the whole world to see (Genesis 11:3–4). This tower was most likely a *ziggurat*, a common structure in Babylonia at the time. Usually built as temples, ziggurats looked like pyramids with steps or ramps leading up the sides. Standing as high as three hundred feet and often just as wide, a ziggurat would stand out as the focal point of a city.

Today, people may not build statues, temples, or pyramids, but they still erect monuments (achievements, expensive clothes, big houses, fancy cars, important jobs) to call attention to themselves. When used to give personal identity and self-worth, these otherwise worthy pursuits take God's place. God gives us freedom to develop in many areas, but not the freedom to replace him.

As you read, check out the attitudes of the builders in the story, and consider any "towers" that you may be building. Tear down anything that stands in God's place.

No close relationship can function without trust. Like a huge diamond, hope is the largest, most precious, most irreplaceable component of every relationship. It is so difficult to get and yet so easy to lose.

This passage opens with one of the most significant events in the Bible—Abram receiving God’s call. Abram’s calling established the covenant (or agreement) by which God created the nation of Israel, his chosen people. Abram’s move to Canaan and the challenges he faced living there with his nephew Lot stretched his faith the way life’s challenges often stretch ours. With this calling God posed the question to Abram: Do you trust me?

This story also includes lessons about selfishness; generosity; helping out family; taking risks; and honoring God.

Read Genesis 12:1–14:24

God promised to bless Abram and to make him great. There was one condition to this promise, however: Abram had to do what God wanted him to do (Genesis 12:2). This meant leaving his home and friends and traveling to a new land, where God promised to build a great nation from Abram’s family. Abram obeyed, walking away from his home, his comfort zone, accepting God’s promise of even greater blessings in the future. Abram believed God, and he demonstrated his trust through his actions.

It’s difficult to step out in faith. We know the past and can feel secure in the present. The future, though, is unknown and risky. But when God leads, we can follow, confident that his way is best.

As you read this passage, watch Abram live by faith. And think of where God may be trying to lead you to better serve him. Don’t let the comfort and security of your present position make you miss God’s plan for you. Be flexible and willing to change.

¹The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and go to the land that I will show you. ²I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. ³I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.” ⁴So Abram departed as the LORD had instructed, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran. ⁵He took his wife, Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all his wealth—his livestock and all the people he had taken into his household at Haran—and headed for the land of Canaan. When they arrived in Canaan, ⁶Abram traveled through the land as far as Shechem.

GENESIS 12:1-6

¹⁵Then God said to Abraham, "Regarding Sarai, your wife—her name will no longer be Sarai. From now on her name will be Sarah. ¹⁶And I will bless her and give you a son from her! Yes, I will bless her richly, and she will become the mother of many nations. Kings of nations will be among her descendants." ¹⁷Then Abraham bowed down to the ground, but he laughed to himself in disbelief. "How could I become a father at the age of 100?" he thought. "And how can Sarah have a baby when she is ninety years old?" ¹⁸So Abraham said to God, "May Ishmael live under your special blessing!" ¹⁹But God replied, "No—Sarah, your wife, will give birth to a son for you. You will name him Isaac, and I will confirm my covenant with him and his descendants as an everlasting covenant."

GENESIS 17:15-19

This invariably happens when we take over for God and try to fulfill his promises through efforts that are not in line with his specific directions. In this case, time provided the greatest test of Abram and Sarai's faith and their willingness to let God work in their lives. Sometimes, we, too, must simply wait. When we ask God for something and have to wait, we are tempted to take matters into our own hands and interfere with God's plans.

Do your continual prayers seem to go unanswered? Do you feel yourself getting impatient with God as you wait for him to fulfill his promise and meet your need? Consider what God might be teaching you in the process. Obey God, and trust him for the outcome.

Right turns on red, your keyboard's escape key, and speeding tickets all testify to our hatred for waiting. More often than not, when we hear "Please wait," we want to say, "No, thank you." We are often asked to wait, and are often not good at complying.

It's a small wonder, then, that Abram and Sarai stopped waiting for God. We see their faith weaken and fail when Sarai and Abram agree to bring Hagar into the process of starting a family. As a result, Ishmael is born. Despite Abram and Sarai's impulsive decision, God reaffirms his promise and establishes the covenant of circumcision—a permanent sign of his relationship with Abram's descendants.

As you read, watch for other lessons on patience; trusting God to do what he promises; and not taking matters into your own hands.

Read Genesis 15:1-17:27

Abram and Sarai had trouble believing God's promise and began thinking up creative ways to manipulate events and have a child (Genesis 16:1-3). A married woman who could not have children was shamed by her peers and was often required to give a female servant to her husband in order to produce an heir. The children born to the servant woman were considered the children of the wife.

When Sarai gave Hagar to Abram, they were acting in line with the custom of the day, but this action revealed their lack of faith that God would fulfill his promise. Consequently, a series of problems arose.

When was the last time you heard “It’s not fair!”? Perhaps that familiar phrase was uttered two minutes ago by a child, or maybe you can remember saying it yourself not long ago. Most people have a keen sensitivity to how the scales are tipped, especially when we think that we are being treated unfairly.

This reading shows us three kinds of belief and unbelief. Abraham and Sarah struggled to believe as three angels repeated another of God’s specific promises. In contrast, the unbelief of Sodom and Gomorrah was so absolute that the entire population was destroyed. In between stood Lot, a man who seemed to think mainly of himself and who stretched the meaning of the term *righteous*. Notice how God dealt differently with each one.

Look for other lessons as you read: hospitality; not compromising with the world around you; and the dangers of desperation.

Read Genesis 18:1-20:18

Was God being unfair to the people of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:27-28)? Actually, God’s fairness stands out: (1) he agreed to spare them if only ten righteous people lived there (18:32); (2) he showed great mercy toward Lot, apparently the only man in either city who had any kind of relationship with him (19:12); and (3) he showed great patience with Lot, almost forcing him to leave Sodom before destroying the wicked city (19:16).

Remember God’s patience when you are tempted to think he is unfair. All people, even the most godly, deserve his justice. We should be glad that God doesn’t direct his justice toward us as he did toward Sodom and Gomorrah. As we grow spiritually, we should find ourselves developing a deeper respect for God because of his anger toward sin, and a deeper love for God because of his patience when we sin.

Take time today to recount God’s acts of mercy and love for you. Thank him for *not* giving you what you deserve, and instead giving you what you don’t deserve—forgiveness and eternal life through Christ. It certainly isn’t “fair”—but isn’t that great?

²⁴Then the LORD rained down fire and burning sulfur from the sky on Sodom and Gomorrah. ²⁵He utterly destroyed them, along with the other cities and villages of the plain, wiping out all the people and every bit of vegetation. ²⁶But Lot’s wife looked back as she was following behind him, and she turned into a pillar of salt. ²⁷Abraham got up early that morning and hurried out to the place where he had stood in the LORD’s presence. ²⁸He looked out across the plain toward Sodom and Gomorrah and watched as columns of smoke rose from the cities like smoke from a furnace. ²⁹But God had listened to Abraham’s request and kept Lot safe, removing him from the disaster that engulfed the cities on the plain.

GENESIS 19:24-29

⁹When they arrived at the place where God had told him to go, Abraham built an altar and arranged the wood on it. Then he tied his son, Isaac, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. ¹⁰And Abraham picked up the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice. ¹¹At that moment the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Yes," Abraham replied. "Here I am!" ¹²"Don't lay a hand on the boy!" the angel said. "Do not hurt him in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God. You have not withheld from me even your son, your only son." ¹³Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket. So he took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

GENESIS 22:9-13

What comes to mind when you hear the word *children*? Small children can take everything out of us, yet they can also brighten our lives with a cute action, a smile, or a loving word.

After years of waiting and several tests of faith, at last Sarah conceives and has a baby—Isaac, or “Laughter”—the promised son. But Abraham’s faith must undergo one more test.

Tests of faith share the spotlight in this passage with other important lessons. As you read, note also what Abraham and others learn about the seriousness of sin; the importance of mourning; and the effect of a good reputation.

Read Genesis 21:1-23:20

Through the years, Abraham had learned many tough lessons about the importance of obeying God—when he was called out of Ur, when he went to Egypt, and when he had to wait for Isaac’s birth. Initially, Abraham did not always show that he trusted or believed God; but through each test, he saw God’s willingness and ability to keep his promises, even if it took a miracle.

That is why God asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac (Genesis 22:1-2), to kill his beloved, only son—his miracle child—on an altar. God did not want Isaac to die, but he wanted Abraham to sacrifice Isaac in his heart so that he could learn to trust God completely (see Hebrews 11:19). Imagine what Abraham must have felt as he walked with Isaac up the mountain, each torturous step leading him painfully closer to unspeakable grief. Yet Abraham obeyed, and God honored his faith.

Obeying God may often be quite a struggle because it may mean giving up something that we truly want. We should not expect our obedience to God to be easy or to come naturally. Just as fire refines ore to extract precious metals, God refines us through difficult circumstances. When tested, we can complain or we can obey, trusting God as we try to see how he is teaching us. In what ways might God be testing your faith? What steps of faith do you need to take today to obey him?

Have you ever let a salesperson talk you into a dumb purchase? Have you ever given away a valuable possession and later wished you hadn't? Looking back on those experiences, you probably realize that you made the decision under pressure. In such moments of weakness, it's easy to make a decision that we later regret. Similarly, sudden crises test our convictions.

Just ask Esau. In this reading, Isaac grows up and gets married; soon thereafter, he and his wife, Rebekah, have twins, Esau and Jacob. God had told Abraham that he would become a great nation, and here we see the promise continuing to unfold. But the age-old stain of sin remains: within this chosen family of four are one shortsighted hothead and two skilled liars. Keep your eye on Esau's "moments of weakness."

There are many lessons in this passage—about being a servant; working hard; seeking God's guidance; staying faithful to our tasks; and resisting the temptation to scheme.

..... **Read Genesis 24:1–28:9**

A birthright was a special honor given to the firstborn son (Genesis 25:31). It included a double portion of the family inheritance, along with the honor of one day becoming the family's leader. Birthrights were priceless. In Isaac's family, the birthright belonged to Esau as the firstborn twin. But because of his shortsightedness, he did not hold on to it. When he was hungry and Jacob had some food, Esau could not see beyond his exaggerated sense of need. "Look, I'm dying of starvation!" he said (25:32). That was probably not true; it merely reflected how he felt. Esau acted on impulse, without pausing to consider the long-range consequences of what he was about to do. He did not need to eat the meal he so desperately wanted, but the pressure of the moment distorted his perspective and made the decision seem urgent.

What pressures do you face? You can avoid making Esau's mistake by comparing the long-range consequences of an action to its short-term satisfaction before you act. Getting through that initial, pressure-filled moment is often the most difficult—and most important—part of overcoming a temptation.

²⁹One day when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau arrived home from the wilderness exhausted and hungry. ³⁰Esau said to Jacob, "I'm starved! Give me some of that red stew!" (This is how Esau got his other name, Edom, which means "red.") ³¹"All right," Jacob replied, "but trade me your rights as the firstborn son." ³²"Look, I'm dying of starvation!" said Esau. "What good is my birthright to me now?" ³³But Jacob said, "First you must swear that your birthright is mine." So Esau swore an oath, thereby selling all his rights as the firstborn to his brother, Jacob. ³⁴Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and lentil stew. Esau ate the meal, then got up and left. He showed contempt for his rights as the firstborn.

GENESIS 25:29-34

¹⁶Now Laban had two daughters. The older daughter was named Leah, and the younger one was Rachel. . . . ¹⁸Since Jacob was in love with Rachel, he told her father, "I'll work for you for seven years if you'll give me Rachel, your younger daughter, as my wife." ¹⁹"Agreed!" Laban replied. "I'd rather give her to you than to anyone else. . . ."

²⁰So Jacob worked seven years to pay for Rachel. . . . ²¹Finally, the time came for him to marry her. "I have fulfilled my agreement," Jacob said to Laban. "Now give me my wife so I can marry her."

²²So Laban . . . prepared a wedding feast. ²³But that night, when it was dark, Laban took Leah to Jacob, and he slept with her. . . . ²⁵When Jacob woke up in the morning—it was Leah! "What have you done to me?" Jacob raged at Laban. "I worked seven years for Rachel! Why have you tricked me?"

GENESIS 29:16, 18-23, 25

Have you ever had a bad choice come back to haunt you? Who hasn't? No medicine goes down more bitterly than your own.

Here begins the story of Jacob, two generations after Abraham. Through no merit of Jacob's, God renews his covenant with Abraham's descendants to him in a dream, and Jacob heads for his uncle Laban's home. This is a forced move, one that he has brought on himself. Jacob is shrewd, and he has proved it. Now he has to prove that he's resourceful as well.

As you read, look for these themes: personalizing faith; being patient; dealing with injustice; struggling with childlessness; resolving sibling rivalry; and taking matters into your own hands.

Read Genesis 28:10-30:43

Laban could scheme just like Jacob. It was the custom of the day for a man to present a dowry, or substantial gift, to the family of his future wife (Genesis 29:18-27). Jacob's dowry was not a material possession, for he had none to offer. Instead, he agreed to work seven years for Laban. But there was another custom of the land that Laban did not tell Jacob: the older daughter had to be married first. By giving Jacob Leah and not Rachel, Laban tricked him into promising another seven years of hard work.

Jacob was enraged when he learned that Laban had tricked him (29:23-25). The one who had deceived Esau was now deceived himself. We quickly become upset at an injustice done to us, yet we excuse, justify, or ignore the injustices that we do to others. Be careful how you treat others, because poor choices have a way of coming back to haunt you.

Think of a recent time when you felt cheated. How would God have you respond to the person who cheated you? And think of how you might have acted unjustly toward someone else. What should you do to make that situation right?

TOPICAL INDEX

- Abandonment *May 7, August 12*
Abilities *September 18*
Abstinence *December 24*
Abundance *March 26*
Abuse *August 10*
Acceptance *June 5*
Accomplishments *March 6*
Accountability *June 21, August 22*
Accusation *February 5, April 23*
Achievements *September 23*
Actions *January 26, March 30*
Activities *November 25*
Adaptability *October 26*
Adherence *December 9*
Adjustments *December 19*
Admiration *June 4*
Admission *May 14, August 15*
Admonish *June 6*
Adolescence *June 2*
Adoption *November 12*
Adoration *June 7*
Adultery *November 2*
Adversity *April 20*
Advice *March 14, April 21, July 4*
Advisors *June 20*
Advocate *December 9*
Affections *June 11*
Affliction *October 14*
Affluence *July 7*
Afraid *May 3*
Age *April 6, July 27, September 27*
Agony *July 1*
Allegiance *October 4, December 28*
Ambassador *December 8*
Anarchy *February 22*
Ancestors *August 3*
Anger *April 19, August 28, November 15*
Anguish *July 1*
Annoyance *March 5, June 22*
Anointing *January 30*
Answers *July 10*
Anticipation *August 13*
Anxiety *April 27, October 29*
Apathy *August 25*
Apology *May 14*
Appearances *February 28, July 14, September 17*
Application *March 24*
Appreciation *November 23*
Arguments *December 3*
Arrogance *January 4, August 5*
Aspirations *November 18*
Assistance *April 14, May 27*
Assumptions *February 4*
Assurance *December 7, December 21*
Atheism *May 16, October 15*
Atonement *December 8*
Attack *October 6*
Attention *August 9, October 1*
Attitude *January 12*
Attraction *March 7*
Authenticity *February 8*
Authority *February 3*
Avoidance *August 27*
Awards *December 25*
Awe *December 25*
Background *April 15*
Bad News *April 12, July 31*
Balance *August 20*
Bargain *August 31*
Barriers *September 23*
Basics *December 16*
Beauty *February 28*
Behavior *April 11*
Belief *January 7, March 18, October 15*
Benefits *December 20*
Betrayal *May 11*
Bible *November 30*
Bitterness *January 11, February 1, April 19*
Blame *April 21, July 15, October 14*
Blasphemy *December 1*
Blessings *March 29, May 17, August 4*
Boasting *April 5, June 8, August 11*
Body *March 12*
Boldness *April 18*
Bosses *September 28*

- Boundaries *December 12*
- Bragging *June 24*
- Bravery *May 10*
- Break *November 1*
- Bribe *August 31*
- Budget *September 4*
- Business *December 30*
- Calling..... *August 27, September 30*
- Calm *May 8*
- Cares *July 4*
- Caring *May 2*
- Cash *September 3*
- Celebration . *January 27, March 22, March 29*
- Challenge *February 13, February 16*
- Chances *December 29*
- Change... *January 13, January 29, August 19*
- Chaos *February 22, April 7*
- Character..... *February 28, April 5*
- Charity *March 27*
- Charm *September 1*
- Cheating *June 19*
- Cheering *April 22*
- Cherish *May 2*
- Child Abuse *August 10*
- Children *June 2, August 10, October 5*
- Choices *August 14*
- Christ *November 18*
- Christ's Love..... *October 29*
- Christ's Return *December 29*
- Christianity *October 30*
- Christians..... *October 16*
- Church *March 12, August 6*
- Circumstances *January 14*
- Cleanliness *January 24*
- Cleansing..... *September 5*
- Closeness *May 19*
- Cockiness *August 23*
- Comfort *May 2, November 7*
- Commandments *February 6*
- Commands *January 19, February 3*
- Commitment..... *May 4, September 29*
- Communication ... *February 24, December 15*
- Community *January 22, June 3*
- Companionship *June 25*
- Company *June 20*
- Compassion... *July 2, August 24, August 28*
- Compensation *August 30*
- Complaints *January 18*
- Compliance..... *August 17*
- Compliments..... *July 6*
- Comprehension *July 10*
- Compromise *March 13*
- Conceit..... *August 5*
- Concentration..... *December 9*
- Concerns *September 10*
- Conclusions *October 22*
- Condemnation *January 7*
- Conduct *December 23*
- Confession *May 9, July 5*
- Confidence *December 21*
- Conflict..... *October 22*
- Conformity..... *March 9*
- Conquering *February 16*
- Conscience *May 1*
- Consequences *February 11, April 4, November 13*
- Consistency *March 3*
- Consoling *April 22*
- Contentment..... *April 3, July 7*
- Contradictions *July 10*
- Contribution *March 19*
- Control *June 23, December 5*
- Conversation *October 12*
- Conversion *October 30*
- Convictions *October 31, November 24, December 27*
- Cooperation *January 19, June 3*
- Core..... *May 28*
- Correction *January 2*
- Counsel *March 14*
- Counterfeits *March 21*
- Courage *April 18, May 10, October 6*
- Courtship..... *November 3*
- Coveting..... *August 29*
- Craving *March 7*
- Criticism *June 6, July 31, September 11*

Critiques	June 16	Discussions	December 3
Curses	February 11	Disheartenment	October 9
Cynicism	May 22	Dishonesty	June 19, June 26
Dating	November 8	Dislikes	May 23
Deals	August 31, December 28	Disloyalty	May 11
Death	March 4, May 30	Disobedience	January 17, May 9
Debates	December 3	Disorder	April 7
Deceit	April 29	Dissatisfaction	January 31
Deceivers	July 21	Distinctions	November 21
Deception	January 10, February 15	Distractions	May 8
Decisions	January 9, February 15	Distress	May 27
Dedication	March 19, June 4	Diversions	November 26
Defilement	January 26	Division	October 2
Delay	December 18	Divorce	June 12
Deliverance	November 11	Doctrine	October 30
Demonstrate	December 2	Doubts	September 13, September 14, November 24
Denial	August 16	Drunkenness	June 30
Dependence	February 14, March 6, May 4	Duty	February 13
Depression	March 15	Earth	November 6
Desires	May 5	Easter	September 26
Despair	January 12, April 12, October 10	Effectiveness	April 16
Detachment	May 26	Effects	November 13
Development	November 16, December 6	Effort	March 6
Devotion	March 1, August 17, October 19	Ego	October 7
Devotions	February 12	Egotism	June 8
Differences	November 21	Elderly	September 27
Difficulties	December 10	Elders	March 31, December 15
Direction	June 14	Embarrassment	March 5
Dirtiness	September 5	Emotions	March 4, May 26
Disabilities	September 20	Empathy	April 22, September 20, November 7
Disagreements	June 1, November 1	Encouragement	June 18
Disappointments	December 13	End Times	September 25
Disbelief	September 15	Endeavors	March 6
Discernment	February 8, March 11	Endurance	January 14, May 12
Discipleship	September 19	Enemies	August 28
Discipline	January 16, June 16	Engagement	November 3
Disclosure	March 10	Enjoyment	May 6
Discomfort	December 10	Entertainment	November 19
Discontentment	May 25	Enthusiasm	March 25, November 9
Discord	November 14	Enticement	March 7
Discouragement	March 15, August 7	Envy	May 6
Discretion	October 24		
Discrimination	July 18, November 21		

- Equality *December 4*
- Escape *November 4*
- Eternal Life *August 13, September 29*
- Eternity *October 3, November 6*
- Ethics *August 14*
- Evaluating *October 24*
- Evangelism *September 19, December 14*
- Evidence *December 7*
- Evil *May 23*
- Example *March 8, August 19*
- Excitement *March 25*
- Exclusion *December 13*
- Excuses *January 15, June 28*
- Exile *August 1*
- Existence *July 12*
- Expectations *September 9, October 8*
- Experience *January 29*
- Explaining *December 14*
- Exploitation *December 30*
- Fads *March 9*
- Fairness *January 7, October 8*
- Faith *January 8, April 20, September 14, October 5*
- Faithfulness *July 20*
- Fall (The) *January 1*
- False Gods *January 21, September 23*
- False Prophets *August 9, September 25*
- False Security *August 26*
- Fame *April 30*
- Family *March 8, May 24, November 12*
- Fashion *July 14*
- Fasting *April 10*
- Fate *March 21*
- Fault *August 19*
- Faultlessness *October 28*
- Faults *April 23*
- Favoritism *October 12, December 11*
- Fear *April 2, May 10*
- Feasts *January 27*
- Feelings *May 26, October 16*
- Fellowship *November 11*
- Femininity *July 8*
- Fickleness *March 9*
- Fidelity *June 12*
- Fighting *June 1*
- First Fruits *June 10*
- Flattery *March 16, July 6*
- Flaws *July 15*
- Focus *February 17, September 14*
- Followers *September 22*
- Following *April 8, July 24, September 16*
- Fools *June 8*
- Forgetting *February 17*
- Forgiveness *March 10, August 15, October 11*
- Formation *December 6*
- Fornication *November 2*
- Fortune-Telling *March 21*
- Foundation *April 7*
- Free Time *April 1*
- Freedom *December 17*
- Friends *April 30*
- Friendship *June 20*
- Fruit *November 13*
- Fruitfulness *September 24*
- Fulfillment *May 7, July 9*
- Fun *March 22*
- Future *February 9, August 13, November 6*
- Generations *December 15*
- Generosity *March 27, June 10*
- Gentleness *July 2, July 19*
- Genuineness *October 19*
- Giving *March 27, June 10, September 7, November 9*
- Glorification *May 29*
- Gluttony *June 30*
- Goals *April 13, May 6*
- God *May 16, August 2*
- God's Promises *January 6*
- God's Will *December 19*
- God's Word *September 21*
- Godliness *May 23, July 8*
- Gods *August 8*
- Good News *September 19*
- Goodness *July 11, October 10*
- Gossip *May 15*

Government	March 2, November 27	Humiliation	May 15
Grace	October 27, December 18	Humility	March 17, April 30, June 6
Gratitude	March 26, August 11	Hunger	February 7
Greatness	October 7, October 27	Hurt	July 17
Greed	May 31, June 30, August 29, December 30	Hypocrisy	September 17
Grieving	March 4	Identity	December 4
Gripping	May 13	Idleness	March 24
Growth	April 15, September 21	Idolatry	January 21, February 25
Grudges	June 17	Idolization	January 4
Guidance	January 26, April 16, October 10	Ignorance	February 1
Guilt	August 12	Ignoring	January 3
Halfheartedness	March 24	Illnesses	May 30
Happiness	June 22, July 9	Image	September 12
Hard Work	June 27	Images	February 25
Hard-Heartedness	January 17	Imitation	November 22
Hardships	January 28	Impartiality	July 18
Hatred	April 19, June 17	Imperfections	May 1
Haughtiness	July 31	Importance	February 23, November 5
Hearing	February 24	Impression	October 3
Heart	October 19	Impulsiveness	January 9
Heaven	August 2, August 13, October 3, December 31	Impurity	June 15
Heavenly Father	November 12	Inability	July 27
Hell	August 2	Inadequacy	January 15, July 27
Help	February 19, July 26	Incapacity	November 10
Heritage	August 3	Income	September 7
Heroes	August 23	Inconsistency	June 15
Hesitation	July 24	Inconveniences	June 22
Hiding	October 18	Independence	December 12
History	August 21	Individualism	March 3
Holidays	January 27, March 22	Indulgence	February 7, December 23
Holiness	January 24, September 3	Inexperience	July 27
Holy Spirit	October 17, October 20	Influence	October 31, November 22
Homesickness	August 1	Injustice	January 10, April 28, May 18, September 2
Honesty	March 16, June 26	Innocence	April 23
Honoring	March 26	Insecurity	December 21
Hope	May 17, November 6	Inspiration	December 2
Hopelessness	August 7, October 9	Insults	April 28
Horoscopes	March 21	Integrity	August 18
Hospitality	December 22	Intelligence	September 8
Humanity	December 19	Intimacy	May 19, July 13
Humbleness	December 15	Intimidation	June 29
		Invincibility	August 26

Irresponsibility	June 27	Magic	October 25
Isolation	May 7	Majority	December 27
Issues	December 3	Manipulation	October 20
Jealousy	January 2	Marriage	March 13, June 12, July 13, November 3
Jesus	September 8, September 24	Martyrs	December 26
Jobs	February 13	Master	December 5
Joy	July 9	Maturing	June 9
Judging	September 11, November 1	Maturity	December 6
Judgment Day	August 22	Meaning	May 21, July 12
Judgments	October 22	Mediation	November 20
Justice	February 20, May 18, August 20	Mediocrity	February 26
Justification	June 28	Memories	May 17
Kids	June 2	Memorization	February 12
Kindness	May 24, December 20	Mercy	January 7, February 20, September 5
Kingdom of God	December 31	Message	November 26
Knowing	November 18	Messengers	February 2
Knowledge	June 8, July 16, November 30	Mind	November 19
Labor	November 25	Ministering	August 30
Lament	January 31	Ministers	March 31, December 22
Law	January 25, February 6, May 31, October 23	Ministry	September 4
Laziness	June 13, July 3	Minorities	July 23
Leaders	June 29	Miracles	September 15
Leadership	March 31, April 16, August 18	Misrepresentation	August 9
Learning	January 16	Missionaries	September 30, December 22
Legacy	March 23	Mistakes	July 5, October 28
Leprosy	September 20	Mocking	June 24
Lessons	August 21	Model	December 2
Liars	December 1	Money	April 3, May 31, July 7, October 4
Liberty	December 17	Morality	March 9
Life	July 12	Morals	January 25, August 14
Light	October 10	Motives	February 4, March 28, June 28
Limitations	November 10	Nagging	July 4
Listening	February 24	Naïveté	June 14, July 21
Loneliness	June 25	Natural	December 19
Lordship	August 8, September 28	Needs	January 18, May 5, September 10
Love	February 21, July 17, August 20, October 11, October 16	Negativity	February 1, May 22
Loyalty	March 1	Nobility	July 8
Luck	July 28	Non-Believers	November 8
Lukewarmness	June 15	Nourishment	February 7
Lust	February 21	Oaths	July 20
Lying	April 29, June 26, July 6	Obedience	March 3
		Objectives	April 13

- Objects July 28
- Occult February 9, October 25
- Offenses June 17
- Offering November 9
- Officials November 27
- Openness March 28, October 18
- Opportunity February 16, October 26, December 29
- Opposition December 27
- Optimism August 1
- Order February 22
- Outcasts September 20
- Ownership December 12
- Pain November 7
- Panic May 3
- Paradise December 31
- Parenting March 8, August 10
- Partiality December 11
- Partnerships November 3, November 8
- Passion February 21, June 11, July 13
- Past February 17, April 15
- Patience ... January 3, January 6, January 10, September 2
- Peace April 1, June 1
- Perfection July 11, November 16
- Persecution May 15, July 23, October 2
- Perseverance February 18, April 2
- Perspective February 23, September 22
- Persuasion September 1, October 20
- Pessimism May 22
- Physical Disabilities November 10
- Piety July 25, October 1
- Plans January 30, April 13, August 4
- Pleasure June 11
- Point of View September 22
- Politeness May 24
- Political Leaders November 27
- Politics March 2
- Polytheism August 8
- Poor August 24
- Popularity February 8, February 26, September 12, October 1
- Poverty August 24
- Power March 2, March 20, June 18
- Praise May 25, May 29, June 7
- Prayer ... March 23, May 13, June 23, July 26, September 30
- Preaching July 29
- Preference December 11
- Prejudice July 18, October 12
- Preparation January 30, April 10
- Preparedness .. April 1, April 17, September 6
- Presence January 20
- Pressure January 9, March 13
- Presumptions February 4
- Pride January 2, March 17
- Principles February 6, December 16
- Priorities March 11, May 21, September 4
- Privilege December 23
- Problems July 1
- Problem-Solving April 12
- Procrastination June 27, July 3, July 24
- Progress July 16, November 16
- Prominence November 5
- Promiscuity February 10
- Promises May 20, July 20
- Proof September 15
- Prophecies September 25
- Prosperity March 20, May 5
- Prostitution February 10
- Protection May 11, October 17
- Protests May 13
- Provision January 18, August 11
- Prudence March 14
- Punishment September 2
- Pureness October 28
- Purity December 24
- Purpose January 28, February 23
- Quality September 17
- Questions April 24, October 24
- Quietness May 8
- Racism July 18
- Rage November 15
- Rationalizing June 28
- Readiness July 21, September 6
- Reality July 12

- Rebukes *June 16*
 Receptiveness *July 30, September 21*
 Recognition *March 29, April 30*
 Reconciliation *January 11*
 Redemption *December 8*
 Refinement *December 13*
 Refreshment *May 19*
 Refuge *February 5*
 Rejection *June 5, October 2, October 6*
 Relationships *January 5, January 13, January 20, May 9, July 17*
 Relatives *August 3*
 Reliability *May 20*
 Reliance *February 14*
 Religion *January 21, February 27, March 18*
 Repentance *March 10, April 11, April 26, August 22*
 Repetition *December 16*
 Reputation *March 23, September 12*
 Requests *November 20*
 Requirements *October 13, October 23*
 Resentment *March 5, May 12*
 Resistance *November 29*
 Resolutions *September 29*
 Resources *January 29*
 Respect *May 24, December 4*
 Respond *December 14*
 Responsibility *February 11, June 21, August 18*
 Rest *April 10, June 13*
 Restitution *January 23*
 Restoration *April 9*
 Restrictions *January 25*
 Results *January 16*
 Resurrection *September 26*
 Retaliation *August 15*
 Retreat *November 29*
 Retreating *August 27*
 Revenge *January 11, February 5, April 28, August 15*
 Reverence *March 30, May 28*
 Rewards *August 30, September 16*
 Riches *September 3*
 Ridicule *January 3, June 24*
 Righteousness *July 11*
 Rights *November 17*
 Risk Taking *April 18*
 Rituals *July 25, July 28*
 Role Model *November 22*
 Routine *January 24*
 Rules *January 19, October 23*
 Rumors *May 15*
 Sacrifice *January 8, January 23, February 27*
 Saints *December 26*
 Salvation *January 23, September 16, September 26*
 Satan *December 28*
 Satisfaction *February 7*
 Scheming *August 29*
 Scripture *June 9*
 Second Coming *September 6*
 Second-Guessing *September 13*
 Secrecy *March 28, August 16, October 18*
 Security *January 5, April 24, May 30*
 Seduction *June 14*
 Self-centeredness *October 7*
 Self-confidence *February 15*
 Self-glorification *January 4*
 Selfishness *November 17*
 Selflessness *March 17, June 21*
 Self-pity *March 15, August 12*
 Self-righteousness *September 11, November 17*
 Self-sacrifice *August 17*
 Self-sufficiency *April 9, August 5*
 Sensitivity *July 19*
 Separation *July 23, October 29*
 Sermon *October 21*
 Servanthood *January 12, April 6, August 30, October 4*
 Sex *February 10*
 Sexual Immorality *November 2*
 Sexual Temptation *November 4*
 Sexuality *December 24*
 Shallowness *April 20*
 Shame *May 1*

- Sharing *November 28*
- Shortcomings *July 15*
- Sin *January 1*
- Sincerity *April 11, August 6*
- Sinners *October 27*
- Sins *May 14, October 28*
- Skepticism *May 16, October 15*
- Skills *January 22*
- Slavery *December 17*
- Sleeplessness *April 27*
- Sloth *June 13, July 3*
- Socializing *June 25*
- Society *April 14*
- Sorcery *February 2, October 25*
- Sovereignty *September 28, December 5*
- Speculation *November 26*
- Speech *July 29, October 21*
- Spiritual Fruit *September 24*
- Spiritual Gifts *September 18, November 5*
- Spiritual Growth *November 30*
- Spiritual Rebirth *November 11*
- Spouses *July 13*
- Stability *May 12, November 24*
- Standards *April 25, September 9*
- Status *October 3*
- Steadfastness *December 7*
- Stillness *May 8*
- Strangers *November 20*
- Strength *January 15, April 9*
- Stress *July 22*
- Struggles *February 19, May 27*
- Stubbornness *January 17, April 4*
- Study *October 24*
- Style *July 14*
- Submission *March 30, April 8, April 25*
- Success *March 20, June 19*
- Successors *February 3*
- Suffering *April 21*
- Superficiality *February 27*
- Superstitions *July 28*
- Support *February 19, July 2*
- Surrender *April 26*
- Talents *January 22, September 18*
- Tasks *June 23*
- Teachers *December 1*
- Teamwork *April 14*
- Technology *July 16*
- Temper *June 22*
- Temptation *January 1*
- Tempters *September 1*
- Tenderness *October 11*
- Testifying *October 21*
- Testimony *August 21*
- Testing *January 8, April 5*
- Thankfulness *May 25, June 7, November 23*
- Thoughts *November 19*
- Time *May 21*
- Timing *April 17, December 18*
- Tiredness *July 22*
- Tithing *September 7, November 9*
- Tolerance *February 18, March 18, December 24*
- Tomorrow *December 29*
- Toughness *August 23, November 29*
- Tradition *August 3*
- Transformation *January 13*
- Traps *July 21, November 4*
- Treasure *February 25, November 28*
- Trials *April 4, October 14*
- Trickery *December 28*
- Troubles *December 10*
- Trust *January 5, January 14, February 14, May 4, October 5*
- Truth *March 16, April 29, October 13*
- Tyranny *June 29*
- Unbelief *October 13*
- Uncertainty *April 24, September 13*
- Unconditional Love *December 20*
- Understanding *April 25*
- Unfairness *May 18*
- Ungratefulness *January 18, January 31*
- Unity *June 3, November 14*
- Unlovable *June 4*
- Unworthiness *September 5*
- Usefulness *April 6, July 30, September 27*

Valuables	August 25	Wisdom.....	March 11, May 28, June 9, September 8
Values	February 26, August 25	Witchcraft	February 9
Vanity	May 29	Witnessing.....	April 17, July 29, August 7
Vengeance	December 26	Women	July 8
Versatility	October 26	Word of God	February 12
Victory.....	October 8	Words	June 18
Vulnerability.....	March 28	Work ...	March 19, September 9, November 25
Waiting	January 6, February 20, May 3	World.....	October 17
Walls	November 14	Worry.....	April 27, May 20, September 10
Warning	January 28, July 26	Worship ...	January 20, March 12, March 25, July 25, August 6
Weakness	January 9, April 2, July 19, October 31	Worth	June 5
Wealth.....	April 3, November 28	Worthiness	December 25
Weariness	February 18, July 22	Wrath.....	November 15
Whole-Heartedness	February 2	Wrongdoing.....	July 5
Will	August 4	Yielding	April 8, July 30
Willfulness.....	April 26	Youth.....	July 27
Winning	June 1		