

Every Man's A Bible for Every Battle Every Man Faces **BIBLE**



YOUR
WORD
IS A
LAMP
FOR
MY FEET,
A LIGHT
ON
MY
PATH.

PSALM 119:105

PRESENTED TO

BY

DATE

Every Man's Bible

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

Every Man's BIBLE

Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.
Carol Stream, Illinois

NIV  NEW
INTERNATIONAL
VERSION

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INTRODUCTION TO THE EVERY MAN'S BIBLE

You are holding in your hands the most important—and best-selling—book of all time. The Holy Bible is God's Word. It is how God chose to reveal himself to humanity. And we live in a time when we desperately need to hear what God has to say. Most important of all, the Bible tells the story of humanity's sin and God's incredible plan for redemption through his Son, Jesus Christ. We present this special edition of the Bible with the great hope that it will help you develop a fuller and more enriching relationship with Jesus.

Though God's Word is relevant to men and women of all ages, throughout all of history, the *Every Man's Bible* is intended for men. Men face different challenges than women do, and it is important for men to have a deep understanding of the Holy Scriptures. So the features and notes of this edition were written specifically for men. God created men and women with different strengths and different roles. Our desire in presenting the *Every Man's Bible* is that it will help you better understand God's general plan for masculinity as well as the special and unique role God has for you.



Book Introductions

A brief introduction precedes each book of the Bible. This feature will help you get acquainted with the writer, message, and purpose of the book. It also contains recommended verses to memorize and includes one or more “masculine perspectives”—short insights on the book you are about to read.



Study Notes

Short study notes interspersed throughout the Bible will help you gain a better perspective on a particular verse or passage.



Men, Women, and God

All men struggle in the area of relationships. This feature focuses on two of the most important relationships in every man's life: his relationship with God and his relationship with his wife—or with women in general.



Someone You Should Know

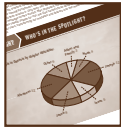
Have you ever wanted to meet one of your heroes from the Bible? This feature is your chance to do just that—get acquainted with one of the men whose stories are told in this book. You'll meet 98 men of renown. Some loved God and

serve as role models for us; some didn't and, because of their lack of faith, can teach us valuable lessons about the importance of faith in our own lives.



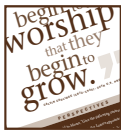
What the Bible Says About . . .

What does the Bible have to say about ambition? What about drinking? Or sports? These 50 features will give you insight into the Bible's vital message on all kinds of topics for daily living.



Spotlight

These 43 charts were created from a uniquely male perspective and are designed to help you visualize important truths presented in God's Word.



Perspectives

All successful men understand the value of learning from others who have had similar experiences. This feature allows you to glean bits of insight from great men who have lived through many of the same issues and struggles that you face. Each of the 26 perspectives is tied to a Bible verse. Want a challenge? Try memorizing all the quotes, their source, and the verse they are identified with.



Personal Gold

This feature consists of "snapshots" taken from books that were written by Christian men about living the Christian life. It is one of the most exciting features in the *Every Man's Bible*. You may recognize many of these authors' names. Some of these men have already finished their earthly race; many others are still alive. All of them will help you as you continue in your quest to become the man God wants you to be.



What's the Point

One thing most men have in common is a desire to get right to the bottom of any issue. We want to get straight to the point. We like to know the bottom line. That's why you'll find a one-sentence summary of each book's message on the page following that book's introduction.

These features were designed to help guide you in your exciting journey through the most important book of all time. Our prayer is that the *Every Man's Bible* will serve as a tool to help you increase your knowledge of the Bible, deepen your relationships with those around you, and gain new insights into your life, your work, and your relationship with God.

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WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT . . .

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WHAT IS THE BIBLE ALL ABOUT?

The Bible is the all-time best seller and enjoys the distinction of being the most read book in history! People from all parts of the world turn to the Bible to find answers to life's deepest questions and problems. And many find their lives more meaningful because of the message contained within this book.

But the Bible is more than an answer-book that you can turn to when the pressures of life bear down. It is really a library of books—books filled with inspiring stories, majestic poetry and songs, direct messages and prophecies, and most important of all, the account of God visiting our earth in the person of Jesus Christ.

This particular edition of the Bible is one of the easiest to understand, since it is a thought-for-thought translation. Instead of translating the original Hebrew and Greek texts word for word, the ideas in those texts are expressed here using the idioms and sentence structure of early twenty-first century English. As you read, you will better understand the meaning and purpose of your existence along with what God wants you to know for successful living.

The Message of the Bible

The Bible begins by telling how the eternal God created the world and everything in it. He gave people a beautiful place to live and supplied everything they needed. Best of all, he was their friend.

That glorious beginning, however, was ruined when people disobeyed God and plunged into rebellion and sin. This broke humanity's relationship with God and brought judgment and death to the earth, its creatures, and humanity itself. Even so, God did not abandon his disobedient creatures. He set out to reclaim fallen people, much as a shepherd sets out to restore lost sheep to the fold.

The Old Testament provides many references to a special individual who would provide salvation for his people. That special individual, the Messiah, was not to be merely a man, however. The Messiah was to be "Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14; 8:8), which in Hebrew means "God with us." The Messiah would be both God and man, and those prophecies were fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ.

When Jesus died to pay the penalty for our sin, he also removed all guilt produced by that sin and restored the broken relationship between God and humanity. Furthermore, he lives today and speaks continually to God on our behalf. "Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him" (Hebrews 7:25). He gives eternal life to all who trust in him.

How to Read the Bible

Eventually, you will want to read every word of the Bible. However, you don't have to read straight through from the beginning. Since the Bible is a library of books, you can begin almost anywhere.

To help you begin, some of the subjects talked about in the Bible are listed on the following pages. Scan through these topics, and find the topics you're concerned about. Then turn to the page listed to discover what the Bible has to say about your concern.

You can also begin by reading longer sections of the Bible. You can start your reading in the New Testament with the book of Mark (page 1277). It is a short, fast-moving biography of Jesus Christ. Then read about the spread of the Christian faith by reading the book of Acts (page 1399). Next, read the book of Romans (page 1451). This is one of the many letters written by the apostle Paul. In Romans Paul clearly tells how sinful human beings can find acceptance with God.

In the Old Testament, read the book of Genesis (page 3) and Exodus 1–20 (page 83). Then continue with some of the other books named after the main characters—Joshua (page 273), Ruth (page 345), Ezra (page 613), Esther (page 653), Daniel (page 1101), Hosea (page 1123), and Jonah (page 1165). Then turn to the Psalms (page 709), and read enough of them to learn what it means to worship God and pour out your inner feelings to him.

You may want to set up a pattern of daily reading that includes some Psalms along with a section from the Old or New Testament. As you seek God in his Word, you will discover that the Bible is God's personal Word to you. It's relevant to your questions and needs, today and every day.

BAND OF BROTHERS

How to Lead a Men's Bible Study

Guys—for all our supposed independence and isolation—do a lot of things together. We hike or ride bikes together. We compete on the basketball court. We tell each other the jokes we like. We watch sports together, offering our commentary along the way. We fix malfunctioning appliances, car engines, or software together. In the business world, we work at building stronger companies that will make more money. In other words, we're not the "lone rangers" many women think we are.

And men all across the nation are finding value in opening the Bible together on a regular basis. After all, it's clearly a "guy book," with males taking up at least 90 percent of the spotlight, from Adam to Noah to Moses to Samson to David to Daniel to Jesus, Peter, and Paul. It speaks to the real issues that guys face in our contemporary world. When men bring those issues into a small group of friends they can trust, great things happen.

If you'd like to form such a band of brothers, here are the practical steps to take:

Recruiting and Organizing

Write a list of possible participants. Go through the Contacts list in your phone or on your computer; think about guys you've met on the job, in the community, at church—and imagine what would happen if you said, "Hey, I'm thinking about getting a group together to dig into *Every Man's Bible* and see how it can help us be better Christ-followers. Would you be interested in giving it a try?" Then start making phone calls.

Don't be discouraged by "Yeah, well, but I'm awfully busy" (which may or may not be the real reason for staying away). Take what you can get. As few as three recruits (plus yourself) is enough to move forward.

Settle the logistics—time, place, frequency, and duration. Ask everyone for input: What day of the week would work best? What time of day—early morning? Over lunch? An evening or a weekend afternoon? Can you make this happen on a weekly basis (the best option), or would it have to be biweekly?

Where's a good place to meet—a coffee shop? Somebody's office or lunchroom? Somebody's home? Even outdoors?

What about a trial period of, say, six meetings, so guys don't feel pressure to commit to "forever"? You can evaluate at the end of the period and see if your group wants to keep going.

Set the first meeting time (with adequate advance notice). Be prepared that not everyone who sounded positive will actually show up. It will take a few weeks for the group to sort itself out and settle into a committed core.

Someone You Should Know: Esau

Warm-up Question: “Today’s marketing is very good at telling us we need a certain product or service ‘Right Now!’ . . . ‘For a Limited Time Only!’ . . . ‘Don’t Wait!’ What are some examples you’ve seen or heard recently?”

After hearing a few responses from your group, continue with: “And did you respond? Did you do what the ad-makers wanted you to do?”

Meet Esau: Read aloud (either you or one of the group members) the story of a critical day in Esau’s life, as told in Genesis 25:27-34.

Then get a fuller picture of this rugged man by having everyone turn to the profile on page 43 entitled “The Poster Child for Instant Gratification.” It will develop what’s really going on here, including an explanation about the birthright and what it meant. You’ll probably want to have everyone read this page silently, although you could take time for an oral reading if you prefer.

Talk About It:

- Why do a lot of guys make snap decisions without looking down the road to the consequences?
- Is there sometimes a physical angle to all this, such as fatigue, lack of sleep, messed-up eating habits (Esau was starved), or other factors? Like what?
- Anybody want to tell a story about themselves? (Maybe, maybe not!)
- What are some wise ways to prevent this kind of misstep in our lives?
- What kind of siren call is tempting *you* this very week?
- Read aloud the New Testament summary about Esau in Hebrews 12:16-17; then discuss: Why would the Bible call this man “godless”?
- Notice the bottom line of the profile on page 43, entitled “The Point.” It says: “We gain nothing by choosing the immediate over the significant.” What does that mean to you? How would you phrase that in your own words?

Pray About It: Close your meeting with some honest prayers about resisting the lure of instant gratification. Don’t embarrass anyone, but try to be specific before God. Ask him to help each of you live a life without future regrets.

TYNDALE BIBLE VERSE FINDER

Abortion

God cares for the unborn (Exodus 21:22-25)	112
We should protect the helpless (Psalm 82:3-4)	768
Children are from God (Psalm 127:3)	800
God forms every child (Psalm 139:13-16)	804
God plans the future of every child (Jeremiah 1:5)	958

Abuse

God cares about minorities (Exodus 22:21)	113
God protects those who are helpless (Psalm 12:5)	716
Jesus was abused (Matthew 26:67-68)	1272
Abuse has no place in family relationships (Ephesians 5:21-6:4)	1528

Accountability

God will judge our work (2 Chronicles 19:5-10)	585
Sin has consequences (Ezekiel 18:20)	1061
God will hold us accountable for our sin (Ezekiel 18:30)	1061
We are accountable for every word that we speak (Matthew 12:36)	1248
Confronting others with their sins should be done in private (Matthew 18:15)	1258
We should hold each other accountable (Luke 17:3)	1345
We are accountable for what we believe (John 3:18)	1364
God holds Christians accountable (Romans 14:11-12)	1470
God will reward Christians for their good deeds (1 Corinthians 3:8)	1478
God will examine our actions (2 Corinthians 5:10)	1501

Accusations

Satan accuses God's people of doing wrong (Zechariah 3:1)	1208
Jesus was falsely accused (Matthew 26:59-60)	1271
Christians' sins are forgiven (Colossians 1:22)	1542
Accusations against church leaders must come from more than one person (1 Timothy 5:19)	1566
Satan is known as the Accuser (Revelation 12:10)	1657

Adolescence

Young people should worship God (1 Kings 18:12)	470
God can give hope to young people (Psalm 71:5)	758
Young people should remember God (Ecclesiastes 12:1)	866

Young people should be an example to others (1 Timothy 4:12)	1564
Young people should run from their youthful lust (2 Timothy 2:22)	1571

Adoption, Spiritual

God helps his children grow (Deuteronomy 8:5)	242
God's children should obey him (Deuteronomy 26:18)	261
God disciplines his children (2 Samuel 7:14)	410
Do not despise God's discipline (Proverbs 3:11-12)	814
God is our Father (Matthew 6:9)	1239
Christians are God's children (John 1:12)	1360
God's Spirit leads his children (Romans 8:14-17)	1463
Christians should be separate from the world (2 Corinthians 6:17-18) . . .	1503
All of God's children are equal in God's eyes (Galatians 3:28)	1517
God's children will receive a spiritual inheritance (Galatians 4:4-7)	1517
God chose us to be his children (Ephesians 1:4-5)	1524
Jesus is our spiritual brother (Hebrews 2:11)	1587

Adultery

God forbids adultery (Exodus 20:14)	111
Adultery has consequences (Proverbs 6:26)	819
Adultery is foolish (Proverbs 6:32)	819
Adultery is disgusting to God (Jeremiah 7:9-10)	971
God considers lust as sinful as adultery (Matthew 5:27-28)	1237
Divorce often leads to adultery (Mark 10:11-12)	1294
God can forgive the adulterer (John 8:1-11)	1375

Advice

Leaders should consider the advice of others (Exodus 18:13-26)	107
Older people often give wise advice (1 Kings 12:1-11)	460
Stay away from people who give wicked advice (Psalm 1:1)	710
God's advice is best (Psalm 73:24)	762
Wise people seek advice (Proverbs 1:5)	812
Advice helps provide success (Proverbs 11:14)	824
Foolish people do not listen to advice (Proverbs 12:15)	828
Give advice to those in need (1 Thessalonians 5:14)	1554

Alcohol

Being controlled by alcohol is foolish (Proverbs 20:1)	836
Becoming drunk is sin (Romans 13:13-14)	1469
God hates drunkenness (Galatians 5:19-21)	1522
Church leaders should not be controlled by alcohol (Titus 1:7)	1578

Angels

Angels carry out God's judgment (2 Samuel 24:16-17)	437
Angels serve God (Psalm 103:21)	780
Angels praise God (Psalm 148:2)	809

Angels are messengers (Daniel 4:17)	1108
Angels protect God's people (Daniel 6:22)	1114
Angels do not marry (Matthew 22:30)	1265
Angels do not die (Luke 20:36)	1351
Angels will be judged by people (1 Corinthians 6:3)	1481
Satan disguises himself as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14)	1508
Angels encourage Christians (Hebrews 1:14)	1586
Angels who sinned were thrown into hell (2 Peter 2:4)	1621
Angels are holy (Jude 1:14)	1640
Angels are in the presence of God (Revelation 4:8)	1648
Angels should not be worshiped (Revelation 22:8-9)	1668

Anger

Anger can lead to murder (Genesis 4:3-8)	11
Anger leads to evil actions (Psalm 37:8)	733
Showing anger is foolish (Proverbs 12:16)	828
Gentle words can soothe anger (Proverbs 15:1)	830
Being quick-tempered is foolish (Ecclesiastes 7:9)	860
God becomes angry when we are ruled by anger (Amos 1:11)	1151
Anger is like murdering someone (Matthew 5:21-22)	1237
Jesus grew angry at sin (John 2:13-17)	1363
Anger can give Satan a place in your life (Ephesians 4:26-27)	1527
Christians should get rid of anger (Colossians 3:8)	1544
Leaders in the church should not be quick-tempered (Titus 1:7)	1578
Be slow to become angry (James 1:19)	1604

Antichrist

Many will claim to be God's messenger (Matthew 24:5)	1267
Many will have miraculous powers (Matthew 24:24)	1267
Many will claim to be Christ (Luke 21:8)	1352
The Antichrist will be lawless and deceitful (2 Thessalonians 2:1-10)	1556
There are many antichrists (1 John 2:18)	1627
The Antichrist will oppose God (1 John 4:3)	1630
The Antichrist will curse God (Revelation 13:1-8)	1657
The Antichrist will be punished by God (Revelation 20:10)	1663

Appearance

God is not impressed by someone's appearance (1 Samuel 16:7)	378
Physical beauty fades (Proverbs 31:30)	851
Do not worry about clothes (Matthew 6:25-34)	1239
Appearances can be deceiving (Matthew 23:27)	1266
Christians should care more about their spiritual welfare than their physical appearance (1 Timothy 2:9-10)	1561
Do not judge others by their appearance (James 2:2-4)	1606
Inner beauty is more important than physical beauty (1 Peter 3:1-6)	1614

Arguments

Arguments can be avoided by using gentle words (Proverbs 15:1)	830
Loving arguments is a sin (Proverbs 17:19)	833
A fool is quick to argue (Proverbs 20:3)	836
Avoid becoming entangled in others' arguments (Proverbs 26:17)	845
Avoid arguing with a weak Christian (Romans 14:1)	1469
We should avoid arguments (Philippians 2:14)	1536
Arguments between Christians are useless (Titus 3:9)	1580

Armor

Armor for physical battle (1 Samuel 17:38)	381
Soldiers need armor (Jeremiah 46:3-4)	1019
Weapons cannot stop God's power (Ezekiel 38:4)	1086
Spiritual armor prepares us for life (Romans 13:12)	1469
Righteousness is a spiritual weapon (2 Corinthians 6:7)	1503
God's weapons conquer Satan's strongholds (2 Corinthians 10:4)	1506
Put on the armor of God (Ephesians 6:11-18)	1531

Assurance

God always holds his children (Psalm 37:23-24)	735
God will never abandon his people (Psalm 138:8)	804
God's promises last forever (Jeremiah 32:40)	1007
False assurance is dangerous (Luke 18:18-30)	1348
We can be assured of eternal life (John 5:24)	1370
God will not refuse any who come to him (John 6:37-40)	1371
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Christians have peace with God (Romans 5:1-5)	1458
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Atonement

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God required blood for our atonement (Leviticus 17:11)	159
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Jesus provided the atonement for sins (Romans 3:23-25)	1455
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Our atonement allows us to know God (Ephesians 2:13)	1525
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Bad attitudes hurt our relationship with God (Genesis 4:6-7).	11
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Always trust God for your life (Proverbs 29:25)	849
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God will reward the meek (Matthew 5:5).	1236
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Jesus is the highest authority (Matthew 28:18)	1276
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Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit (John 1:32-33)	1361
Baptism is closely linked with a changed life (Acts 2:38)	1403
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Baptism initiates us into Christ (Romans 6:3-8)	1460
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Belief

Believing God makes us righteous (Genesis 15:6)	29
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Belief affects the way we live (Mark 1:15)	1279
Right beliefs are important for salvation (Romans 10:9)	1465
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Bible

The Bible is perfect (Psalm 18:30).	722
The Bible is true (Psalm 33:4)	730

ONE YEAR READING PLAN

January 1

Genesis 1:1–2:25
Matthew 1:1–2:12
Psalm 1:1–6
Proverbs 1:1–6

January 2

Genesis 3:1–4:26
Matthew 2:13–3:6
Psalm 2:1–12
Proverbs 1:7–9

January 3

Genesis 5:1–7:24
Matthew 3:7–4:11
Psalm 3:1–8
Proverbs 1:10–19

January 4

Genesis 8:1–10:32
Matthew 4:12–25
Psalm 4:1–8
Proverbs 1:20–23

January 5

Genesis 11:1–13:4
Matthew 5:1–26
Psalm 5:1–12
Proverbs 1:24–28

January 6

Genesis 13:5–15:21
Matthew 5:27–48
Psalm 6:1–10
Proverbs 1:29–33

January 7

Genesis 16:1–18:15
Matthew 6:1–24
Psalm 7:1–17
Proverbs 2:1–5

January 8

Genesis 18:16–19:38
Matthew 6:25–7:14
Psalm 8:1–9
Proverbs 2:6–15

January 9

Genesis 20:1–22:24
Matthew 7:15–29
Psalm 9:1–12
Proverbs 2:16–22

January 10

Genesis 23:1–24:51
Matthew 8:1–17
Psalm 9:13–20
Proverbs 3:1–6

January 11

Genesis 24:52–26:16
Matthew 8:18–34
Psalm 10:1–15
Proverbs 3:7–8

January 12

Genesis 26:17–27:46
Matthew 9:1–17
Psalm 10:16–18
Proverbs 3:9–10

January 13

Genesis 28:1–29:35
Matthew 9:18–38
Psalm 11:1–7
Proverbs 3:11–12

January 14

Genesis 30:1–31:16
Matthew 10:1–23
Psalm 12:1–8
Proverbs 3:13–15

January 15

Genesis 31:17–32:12
Matthew 10:24–11:6
Psalm 13:1–6
Proverbs 3:16–18

January 16

Genesis 32:13–34:31
Matthew 11:7–30
Psalm 14:1–7
Proverbs 3:19–20

January 17

Genesis 35:1–36:43
Matthew 12:1–21
Psalm 15:1–5
Proverbs 3:21–26

January 18

Genesis 37:1–38:30
Matthew 12:22–45
Psalm 16:1–11
Proverbs 3:27–32

January 19

Genesis 39:1–41:16
Matthew 12:46–13:23
Psalm 17:1–15
Proverbs 3:33–35

January 20

Genesis 41:17–42:17
Matthew 13:24–46
Psalm 18:1–15
Proverbs 4:1–6

January 21

Genesis 42:18–43:34
Matthew 13:47–14:12
Psalm 18:16–36
Proverbs 4:7–10

January 22

Genesis 44:1–45:28
Matthew 14:13–36
Psalm 18:37–50
Proverbs 4:11–13

January 23

Genesis 46:1–47:31
Matthew 15:1–28
Psalm 19:1–14
Proverbs 4:14–19

January 24

Genesis 48:1–49:33
Matthew 15:29–16:12
Psalm 20:1–9
Proverbs 4:20–27



OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis

WHAT'S THIS BOOK ABOUT? Firsts—the universe, people, families, nations. Genesis means “beginning,” and the book of Genesis is the foundation for the rest of the Bible.

- + **WHO WROTE IT?** Christian and Jewish traditions say the author was Moses.
- + **WHEN DID IT HAPPEN?** This book covers from the beginning of time up through the 1400s B.C.
- + **WHERE DOES THIS BOOK FIT?** At the head of the line, both historically and spiritually.
- + **THE BREAKDOWN**
 - Chapters 1–3: Creation; Adam and Eve; sin
 - Chapters 4–5: Genealogies
 - Chapters 6–9: Noah
 - Chapters 10–11: Growth of nations; Tower of Babel
 - Chapters 12–23: Abraham
 - Chapters 24–26: Abraham and Isaac
 - Chapters 27–36: Jacob
 - Chapters 37–50: Joseph
- + **KEY CONCEPTS** The words *This is the account of . . .* are used often to mark off main sections of the book.
- + **SCORECARD**
 - **Adam:** The first man
 - **Eve:** The first woman
 - **Cain:** The first murderer
 - **Noah:** God used him to save humans and animals.
 - **Abraham:** God chose him to be the father of the Jewish people.
 - **Isaac:** Abraham's son
 - **Jacob:** Isaac's son; his name was changed to Israel
 - **Joseph:** Jacob's favorite son; God used him to save Jacob's family from famine

- + **READING TIME**  1:45
IN HOURS :30 | 1:00 | 1:30 | 2:00 | 2:30

WORTH MEMORIZING

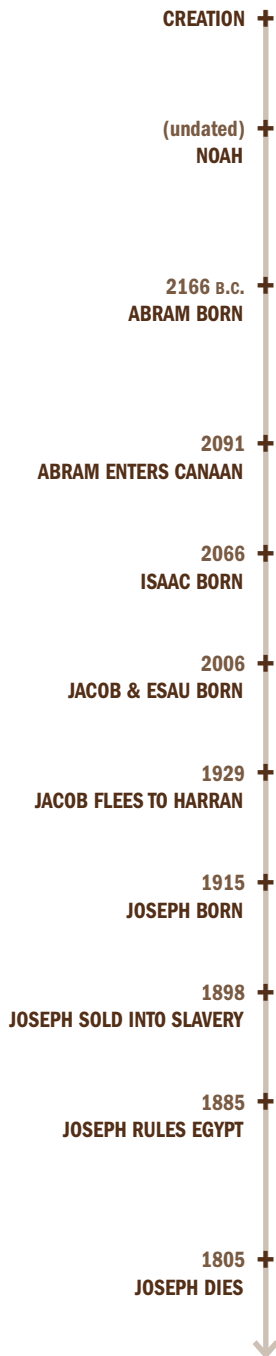
• THE BIBLE'S OPENING WORDS IN 1:1.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

- **JOSEPH'S WORDS IN 50:20.** “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”

THE MASCULINE PERSPECTIVE

- **WORK IS A GOOD THING.** God gave Adam an important job to do, and Adam did it well. It's no accident that men find fulfillment in their work; God designed it that way.
- **MARRIAGE IS A GOOD THING.** Adam was, in a sense, incomplete until God created Eve.
- **SIN IS A REALITY EVERYONE MUST FACE.** Since Adam and Eve sinned, we're all corrupted. This means we can't always trust our instincts about what's right and what's wrong. Instead, we need an independent moral rudder—God's Word.



1 The Beginning

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

³And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

⁶And God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.” ⁷So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. ⁸God called the vault “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

⁹And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good.

¹¹Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. ¹²The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in

1:1 The Hebrew name for God that is used here, *Elohim*, demonstrates the enormity of God’s power to transform lives. This name for God is in the plural form, signifying his strength and might. It also hints that God is in some sense plural—a community unto himself (see also 1:26; 3:22; 11:7). But though this name is plural, it is treated grammatically as singular, revealing God’s unified and personal nature. He is omnipotent in power but personal in his touch. He is able and willing to provide the help we need.

1:2 This verse describes the earth before it was shaped by God’s creative hand. It was shapeless, chaotic, and dark. These three characteristics forebode nothing but trouble. But then we are told that “the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.” This fourth characteristic is a source of hope and promises new life. The presence of the Holy Spirit was a necessary element in the events of all six days of creation. In the same way, his presence in our lives is necessary before any spiritual renewal can take place.

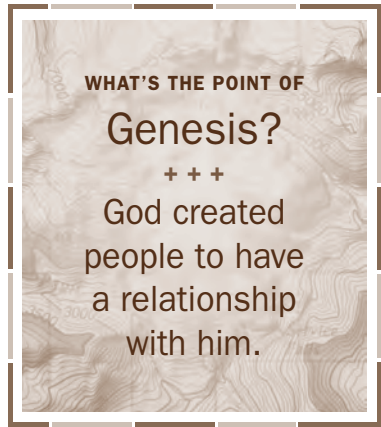
it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

¹⁴And God said, “Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, ¹⁸to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.” ²¹So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.” ²³And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

²⁴And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. ²⁵God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they



may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals,^a and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

²⁷So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

²⁸God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

²⁹Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

³¹God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

^a26 Probable reading of the original Hebrew text (see Syriac); Masoretic Text *the earth*

1:24 The phrase “And it was so” (also in 1:9-11, 14-15) shows us that God’s creative activity was done in complete conformity to the specifications he had originally intended. God accomplishes his will with certainty and precision. It should reassure us to know that God’s good desires for us can be accomplished with the same certainty.

1:26-27 People were created to be like God. Oceans of ink have been used attempting to explain what this means. One characteristic that all the writers agree upon is the ability of people to make moral decisions. We have the power of choice, and we are accountable to God and to others for the choices we make. To continue growing spiritually we must take responsibility for this aspect of God’s nature that is alive and well in each of us.

Time


+ GOD OUTLASTS TIME

Do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. **2 PETER 3:8**

+ GOD CREATED TIME

God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years."

GENESIS 1:14



+ GOD IS WITH US THROUGHOUT TIME

Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

PSALM 90:1

+ + +

[Jesus:] "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

MATTHEW 28:20

+ OUR TIME IS LIMITED

Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures; yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.

PSALM 90:10

+ + +

Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

PSALM 90:12

+ + +

The life of mortals is like grass, they flourish like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.

PSALM 103:15-16

+ TIME: USE IT WISELY

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

EPHESIANS 5:15-16

2 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

²By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. ³Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

Adam and Eve

⁴This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

⁵Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth^a and no plant had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, ⁶but streams^b came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground. ⁷Then the LORD God formed a man^c from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

⁸Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. ⁹The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters. ¹¹The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of

Havilah, where there is gold. ¹²(The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin^d and onyx are also there.) ¹³The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush. ¹⁴The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Ashur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

¹⁸The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

¹⁹Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. ²⁰So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

But for Adam^f no suitable helper was found. ²¹So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs^g and then closed up the place with flesh. ²²Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib^h he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

²³The man said,

“This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.”

^a 5 Or land; also in verse 6 ^b 6 Or mist ^c 7 The Hebrew for man (*adam*) sounds like and may be related to the Hebrew for ground (*adamah*); it is also the name *Adam* (see verse 20). ^d 12 Or good; pearls ^e 13 Possibly southeast Mesopotamia ^f 20 Or the man ^g 21 Or took part of the man’s side ^h 22 Or part

2:2-3 This is the first mention of Sabbath rest—one day of rest in seven. By his example, God encourages us to designate a portion of our lives to rest and spiritual rejuvenation. Without proper rest, it is very difficult to deal with the other matters in our lives and maintain the balance necessary to preserve spiritual gains.

2:4 Here a new Hebrew name for God is introduced: “The LORD” (*Yahweh*). This is the personal name for God; it is his relationship name. It describes the God who chose Abram and established a covenant with him. It describes the God who chose to relate to the Israelites and make them his people. It is the name that reminds us that God wants to have a relationship with us.

2:8-14 God provided a perfect environment for the first people. We often blame our outward circumstances for our difficulties. It is important to note here that in spite of their ideal surroundings, our first parents fell—they failed. Although the environment we live in can certainly add to our problems, it is never entirely at fault. We need to take responsibility for our own mistakes and failures.

2:16-17 God forbade Adam and Eve to eat from a single tree. Why did he do this? Why didn’t God create a world where people couldn’t sin? Or why didn’t he make people so they couldn’t disobey his commands? The answer lies in the very nature of God. God is love and desires to have a loving relationship with his creatures. He wants us to respond to him with love in return. But a loving response is only possible when we have the choice to do otherwise. He wants us to obey because we love him, not because we have no other choice.

Making a Man and a Woman

Genesis 1:27 and 2:15-25

GOD MADE EVERYTHING in the cosmos, from the microscopic amoeba and tiny insects to the vast planets and galaxies. But his work wasn't done until he had designed his most amazing creatures.

The first two chapters of Genesis give us two slightly different descriptions of the process God used to create humanity.

The sound bite in Genesis 1:27 tells us that people were created in God's own image. That doesn't mean humans are gods, but it does mean we have some of the Creator's characteristics—including our own kind of God-given creativity.

The longer Genesis 2 account provides more details about God's creation of Adam and Eve; Adam came first, and one of his ribs was used in the later creation of Eve.

People have argued about the Genesis creation stories for centuries. Skeptical scientists say the Bible is riddled with errors, but theologians say Genesis was never intended to be a science book.

Feminists and traditionalists have also fought bitter battles over these two brief passages. Feminists prefer Genesis 1, which supports their claims of gender equality, while those who support male leadership in the home and society prefer Genesis 2, which suggests women may have been dependent on men from the beginning of time.

These passages won't settle the raging scientific and moral debates, but they do make one thing perfectly clear: God created both the male and female and declared them "very good" (Genesis 1:31).

²⁴That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

²⁵Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

3 The Fall

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

⁴"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵"For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

⁶When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

¹⁰He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

3:1-5 The account here pictures for us the process of temptation. The serpent offered as a very attractive option something that had been forbidden by God. The serpent also caused Eve to doubt God and the truth of his Word. During the debate, Eve offered some halfhearted opposition, but her growing doubt in God weakened her resolve. In the end, she gave in. Satan strengthened his temptation by weakening Eve's faith in God. Staying close to God and preserving our faith in him will weaken the power of temptation in our life.

3:10 Adam admitted that he was hiding from God. One of the terrible consequences of our sin is the isolation that results. We want to hide from other people; we want to hide from God. Our failures will always make us want to hide. But we must bring our sin out into the open; this will then bring us back into our relationships—with others and with God—which helps us preserve our spiritual gains.

Coming in First

MOST OF THE TIME, it's good to come in first.

It feels great when you're the first with a creative solution to a tough problem.

It feels great when you're the first to taste some fabulous new dish.

It feels great when you're the first to explore new territory, to harvest a unique plant, to watch a sunset from a breathtakingly beautiful perch.

Adam, the first human being ever to open his eyes, experienced all of these firsts, as well as countless more. As the original representative of a new race, Adam became the first to hold a steady job (Genesis 2:15), to play the name game (2:19-20), to enjoy a dynamic relationship with God (2:15ff), and to get married (2:21-25). God had created Adam to reflect something of his own divine magnificence (1:26-27), and as a result, this first man and his wife enjoyed a unique role as rulers over every other creature living on earth (1:26). Had the *Guinness Book of World Records* existed in Adam's day, he would have filled it with a dazzling multitude of exploits.

Too bad he didn't stop while he was ahead.

Most of us would like to forget the one first for which Adam is most remembered.

But we can't, since the results of *that* first continue to harass us to this day. Adam

chose to disobey the explicit instructions of God—and as a consequence, he earned himself and his posterity the death penalty (2:16-17; 3:17-19).

While the Bible fingers Adam as the one responsible for bringing sin and chaos into the world, some guys would rather blame Eve, Adam's wife, who did in fact break God's command before her husband did. They wonder, *Why does the Bible lay the fault squarely at Adam's feet?* Scripture offers two primary answers: First, God gave his commandment directly to Adam, not to Eve; and second, while a devilish deception hoodwinked Eve into disobedience, Adam consciously and willingly *decided* to disobey (1 Timothy 2:14). For this reason, the apostle Paul

says, "Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned" (Romans 5:12).

We'll never know what might have happened had Adam chosen God over sin. In the end, Adam returned to the ground from which he was taken after his death at a whopping 930 years of age (Genesis 3:19; 5:5).

And yet, was it really "the end"? No. The Bible is nothing if not a book of hope, and it tells us of a "last Adam," Jesus Christ, who through a first of his own has undone for us what Adam did to us: "For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:22). As "the first to rise from the dead," Christ proclaims "the message of light to his own people and to the Gentiles" (Acts 26:23)—a light that allows us, through faith in him, to enter a kind of life superior even to that which Adam forfeited so long ago.

The Bible
fingers Adam
as the one
responsible
for bringing sin
and chaos into
the world.

THE POINT: It's good to be first—but only in the right things.

Naked and Unashamed

Genesis 2:25

THE EARLY DAYS in the Garden of Eden were a time of innocence and joy for humanity's first husband and wife. Wouldn't it be nice if we could bottle some of their happiness and pour it all over our own sex-saturated, love-starved world?

Here's how British thinker C. S. Lewis once described the problem of runaway sexual appetites:

"You can get a large audience together for a strip-tease act. Now suppose you came to a country where you could fill a theater by simply bringing a covered plate onto the stage and then slowly lifting the cover so as to let everyone see, just before the lights went out, that it contained a mutton chop or a bit of bacon, would you not think that in that country something had gone wrong with the appetite for food? And would not anyone who had grown up in a different world think there was something equally queer about the state of the sex instinct among us?"

That was half a century ago. Today, technology has accelerated the sale of sex, especially on the Internet, where anyone can view material once considered illegal or unthinkable.

Sex is the means by which humans and other creatures reproduce. But it's obvious that when God designed human sexuality, he added lots of interesting extra features. That's because there's more to human sexuality than breeding.

God created sex as a means for a man and a woman to experience a kind of soul-to-soul intimacy that can't be known any other way. Sex was also designed to make men and women praise God.

For Adam and Eve, sexuality was innocent and joyful. What would it take for us to experience sex in that way today?

¹¹And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

¹²The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,

"Cursed are you above all livestock
and all wild animals!
You will crawl on your belly
and you will eat dust
all the days of your life.

¹⁵And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring^a and hers;
he will crush^b your head,
and you will strike his heel."

¹⁶To the woman he said,

"I will make your pains in childbearing
very severe;
with painful labor you will give birth
to children.
Your desire will be for your husband,
and he will rule over you."

¹⁷To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,'

"Cursed is the ground because of you;
through painful toil you will eat food
from it
all the days of your life.

¹⁸It will produce thorns and thistles for you,
and you will eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹By the sweat of your brow
you will eat your food
until you return to the ground,
since from it you were taken;
for dust you are
and to dust you will return."

^a 15 Or seed ^b 15 Or strike

3:15 In his grace, God promised that the offspring of the woman would defeat Satan. He promised that he would take charge of the redemption of their lives and overcome the enemy. This is good news—the first mention of the gospel of grace that would eventually be fulfilled by the coming of Jesus, the Messiah.

²⁰Adam^a named his wife Eve,^b because she would become the mother of all the living.

²¹The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. ²²And the LORD God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” ²³So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. ²⁴After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side^c of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

4 Cain and Abel

Adam^a made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain.^d She said, “With the help of the LORD I have brought forth^e a man.” ²Later she gave birth to his brother Abel.

Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. ³In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. ⁴And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, ⁵but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

^a20,1 Or *The man* ^b20 Eve probably means *living*. ^c24 Or *placed in front* ^d1 Cain sounds like the Hebrew for *brought forth or acquired*. ^e1 Or *have acquired* ^f8 Samaritan Pentateuch, Septuagint, Vulgate and Syriac; Masoretic Text does not have *“Let’s go out to the field.”* ^g15 Septuagint, Vulgate and Syriac; Hebrew *Very well*

⁶Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? ⁷If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”

⁸Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.” While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

⁹Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?”

“I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?”

¹⁰The LORD said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground. ¹¹Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. ¹²When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth.”

¹³Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is more than I can bear. ¹⁴Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.”

¹⁵But the LORD said to him, “Not so; anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over.” Then the LORD put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him. ¹⁶So Cain went out from

3:20 There was no reason for Adam and Eve to expect to live on after their failure. God had clearly stated that the consequences of their sin would be death (see 2:17). Yet Adam displayed his faith in our gracious God by naming his wife Eve, which sounds like a Hebrew word that means “to give life.” He believed that she would live to be the mother of the human race. Adam’s faith in God gave him hope for the future, even when his past gave him little reason to hope.

4:4 Abel killed an innocent substitute as his offering, and God accepted his offering. Abel was obedient to God’s instructions. Our relationship with God can be established by accepting God’s gracious forgiveness and allowing the innocent sacrifice of his Son to stand in our place. Abel’s sacrifice of one of his lambs was the second death mentioned in the Bible.

4:6-8 When God rejected Cain’s offering, Cain reacted first with disappointment, then with anger. God did not reject Cain for his strong feelings but offered him an opportunity for a new start. How sad that Cain refused this second chance and went out instead to kill his brother. We need to be careful when we face obstacles in life. We need to carefully weigh the strong feelings we encounter before acting on them. If we don’t, we may be passing up an excellent opportunity for a fresh start. God is not put off by our strong feelings. Our spiritual renewal is based on God’s grace, which always offers us an opportunity to begin again.

4:15 The mark on Cain was not, as some have taught, a badge of guilt. It was a sign that God gave Cain for his protection. Even after Cain’s great failure, God desired to protect him from harm. Many of us look back and marvel at how God protected us before we began seeking him. He wants us to be restored and often protects us in the midst of evil so that we are not destroyed. Even after our greatest failures, our gracious God desires only our healing and restoration.

Passing the Buck

Genesis 3:8-13

THIRTY YEARS AGO, the conversation went like this:

“Tommy, where’s your math assignment?”

“Uh, I think my dog ate it.”

Today, it may be more like this:

“Honey, where are the car keys?”

“Uh, I think the baby must have hidden them somewhere.”

Passing the buck has been a popular guy tradition for a long time. In fact, the origins of buck passing go back to the dawn of human history. Adam, the first man God created, was also the first man to avoid taking responsibility for his failures.

After God created the earth, he told Adam and Eve not to eat the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden. “When you eat from it you will certainly die,” said God (Genesis 2:17).

But the serpent enticed Eve into eating the fruit. Then Eve persuaded Adam. This was the beginning of sin and disobedience on earth. Theologians call this event the Fall.

When God asked what happened, he was given history’s first buck-passing session.

“Eve gave it to me,” said Adam.

“The serpent deceived me,” said Eve.

We can only imagine what might have happened if Adam had said, “God, I confess. I messed up. I’m sorry.” He didn’t, and he paid the price. So do we.

the LORD’s presence and lived in the land of Nod,^a east of Eden.

¹⁷Cain made love to his wife, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Enoch. Cain was then building a city, and he named it after his son Enoch. ¹⁸To Enoch was born Irad, and Irad was the father of Mehujael, and Mehujael was the father of Methushael, and Methushael was the father of Lamech.

¹⁹Lamech married two women, one named Adah and the other Zillah. ²⁰Adah gave birth to Jabal; he was the father of those who live in tents and raise livestock. ²¹His brother’s name was Jubal; he was the father of all who play stringed instruments and pipes. ²²Zillah also had a son, Tubal-Cain, who forged

all kinds of tools out of^b bronze and iron. Tubal-Cain’s sister was Naamah.

²³Lamech said to his wives,

“Adah and Zillah, listen to me;
wives of Lamech, hear my words.
I have killed a man for wounding me,
a young man for injuring me,

²⁴If Cain is avenged seven times,
then Lamech seventy-seven times.”

²⁵Adam made love to his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth,^c saying, “God has granted me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed him.” ²⁶Seth also had a son, and he named him Enosh.

At that time people began to call on^d the name of the LORD.

^a 16 Nod means wandering (see verses 12 and 14).

^b 22 Or who instructed all who work in

^c 25 Seth probably

means granted. ^d 26 Or to proclaim

4:19-24 Some people insist that the human race is developing and becoming better and better. When we compare Lamech with his ancestor Cain, it is obvious that the trend has usually gone in the opposite direction. Without God’s help, we only get worse. It is only by following God’s plan and receiving his grace that we can hope to escape the natural slide toward pain and destruction.

5 From Adam to Noah

This is the written account of Adam's family line.

When God created mankind, he made them in the likeness of God.² He created them male and female and blessed them. And he named them "Mankind"^a when they were created.

³When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth. ⁴After Seth was born, Adam lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. ⁵Altogether, Adam lived a total of 930 years, and then he died.

⁶When Seth had lived 105 years, he became the father^b of Enosh. ⁷After he became the father of Enosh, Seth lived 807 years and had other sons and daughters. ⁸Altogether, Seth lived a total of 912 years, and then he died.

⁹When Enosh had lived 90 years, he became the father of Kenan. ¹⁰After he became the father of Kenan, Enosh lived 815 years and had other sons and daughters. ¹¹Altogether, Enosh lived a total of 905 years, and then he died.

¹²When Kenan had lived 70 years, he became the father of Mahalalel. ¹³After he became the father of Mahalalel, Kenan lived 840 years and had other sons and daughters. ¹⁴Altogether, Kenan lived a total of 910 years, and then he died.

¹⁵When Mahalalel had lived 65 years, he became the father of Jared. ¹⁶After he became the father of Jared, Mahalalel lived 830 years and had other sons and daughters. ¹⁷Altogether, Mahalalel lived a total of 895 years, and then he died.

¹⁸When Jared had lived 162 years, he became the father of Enoch. ¹⁹After he became the father of Enoch, Jared lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. ²⁰Altogether,

Jared lived a total of 962 years, and then he died.

²¹When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. ²²After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked faithfully with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. ²³Altogether, Enoch lived a total of 365 years. ²⁴Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.

²⁵When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he became the father of Lamech. ²⁶After he became the father of Lamech, Methuselah lived 782 years and had other sons and daughters. ²⁷Altogether, Methuselah lived a total of 969 years, and then he died.

²⁸When Lamech had lived 182 years, he had a son. ²⁹He named him Noah^c and said, "He will comfort us in the labor and painful toil of our hands caused by the ground the LORD has cursed."³⁰ After Noah was born, Lamech lived 595 years and had other sons and daughters. ³¹Altogether, Lamech lived a total of 777 years, and then he died.

³²After Noah was 500 years old, he became the father of Shem, Ham and Japheth.

6 Wickedness in the World

When human beings began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, ²the sons of God saw that the daughters of humans were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. ³Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with^d humans forever, for they are mortal^e; their days will be a hundred and twenty years."

⁴The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of humans and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown.

^a2 Hebrew *adam* ^b6 Father may mean ancestor; also in verses 7-26. ^c29 Noah sounds like the Hebrew for *comfort*.

^d3 Or *My spirit will not remain in* ^e3 Or *corrupt*

5:1-32 This chapter has often been called the obituary column. Its recurring refrain is, "And then he died." Although Adam's physical death did not occur on the day he sinned, it did eventually come. Adam had reestablished his relationship with God, but the physical consequences of his sin could not be avoided forever. We may hope that after reestablishing our relationship with God, our troubles will be over. But a relationship with God rarely frees us from the consequences of past sin. The consequences will catch up with us sooner or later. But if we suffer for past mistakes, we can know that God will be with us each step of the way.

5:21-24 Little is said about the spiritual state of these patriarchs of the human race. But the account of Enoch's life provides us with a bright spot in this otherwise dismal chapter. Enoch was said to have "walked faithfully with God." His life should give us hope. He wasn't trapped by the mistakes or apathy of his peers and ancestors. Instead, he constantly walked with God.

Work

+ CHANGING COURSE

Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

EPHESIANS 4:28

+ THE REAL BOSS

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

COLOSSIANS 3:23-24

+ THE FIRST "JOB DESCRIPTION"

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

GENESIS 1:28

+++

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. GENESIS 2:15

+ HOW WORK GOT TO BE A WHOLE LOT TOUGHER

To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,'

"Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life.

It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.

By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food

until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken;

for dust you are and to dust you will return." GENESIS 3:17-19

+ WORK HABITS

Now Jeroboam was a man of standing, and when Solomon saw how well the young man did his work, he put him in charge of the whole labor force of the tribes of Joseph.

1 KINGS 11:28

+++

Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:11-12

+ PRAYING ABOUT YOUR JOB

May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us— yes, establish the work of our hands.

PSALM 90:17

+ SLACKING OFF

One who is slack in his work is brother to one who destroys.

PROVERBS 18:9

⁵The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. ⁶The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. ⁷So the LORD said, “I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them.” ⁸But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

Noah and the Flood

⁹This is the account of Noah and his family.

Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God. ¹⁰Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.

¹¹Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight and was full of violence. ¹²God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. ¹³So God said to Noah, “I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. ¹⁴So make yourself an ark of cypress^a wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. ¹⁵This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be three hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide and thirty cubits high.^b ¹⁶Make a roof for it, leaving below the roof an opening one cubit^c high all around.^d Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks. ¹⁷I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life

in it. Everything on earth will perish. ¹⁸But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons’ wives with you. ¹⁹You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. ²⁰Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. ²¹You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them.”

²²Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

7 The LORD then said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. ²Take with you seven pairs of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and one pair of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, ³and also seven pairs of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth. ⁴Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made.”

⁵And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him.

⁶Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters came on the earth. ⁷And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood. ⁸Pairs of clean and unclean animals, of birds and of all creatures that move along the ground, ⁹male and female, came to Noah and entered the ark, as God had commanded Noah. ¹⁰And after the seven days the floodwaters came on the earth.

^a 14 The meaning of the Hebrew for this word is uncertain. ^b 15 That is, about 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high or about 135 meters long, 23 meters wide and 14 meters high ^c 16 That is, about 18 inches or about 45 centimeters ^d 16 The meaning of the Hebrew for this clause is uncertain.

6:5-6 After years of patience, God saw that the human race still refused to live according to his plan. Here we see that things were getting worse, not better. This broke God’s heart because of the great love he had for his creation. It should encourage us to know that God doesn’t punish us simply out of anger. He loves us very much and desires that we should follow him.

6:7 God promises to judge his fallen and sinful creation. Even though God is patient with us and gives us many chances to change our ways, we cannot act with impunity. God is righteous, and he judges sin.

6:8-10 God did not destroy the righteous with the wicked. These verses are another statement of God’s grace. God extended grace to Noah and his family. Noah knew Enoch’s secret. He lived his life in constant fellowship with God. He broke the mold set by his ancestors and neighbors by drawing close to God. As a result, Noah lived through the Flood and became the second father of the human race.

6:22 One has to wonder whether God’s instructions made any sense to Noah. God told him to build a gigantic boat far from the nearest body of navigable water. But here we see that Noah was obedient even though God’s instructions were hard to understand. This is one of the secrets of success in life. We may not understand how everything works, but we must always be faithful to do what God tells us to do. When we walk by faith as Noah did, God will watch over us.

¹¹In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month—on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. ¹²And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.

¹³On that very day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark. ¹⁴They had with them every wild animal according to its kind, all livestock according to their kinds, every creature that moves along the ground according to its kind and every bird according to its kind, everything with wings. ¹⁵Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life in them came to Noah and entered the ark. ¹⁶The animals going in were male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah. Then the LORD shut him in.

¹⁷For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. ¹⁸The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. ¹⁹They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. ²⁰The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than fifteen cubits.^{a,b} ²¹Every living thing that moved on land perished—birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. ²²Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. ²³Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; people and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark.

²⁴The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days.

8 But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded. ²Now the springs of the deep and the floodgates of the heavens had been closed, and the rain had stopped falling from the sky. ³The water receded steadily from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the water had gone down, ⁴and on the seventeenth day of

the seventh month the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. ⁵The waters continued to recede until the tenth month, and on the first day of the tenth month the tops of the mountains became visible.

⁶After forty days Noah opened a window he had made in the ark ⁷and sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth. ⁸Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground. ⁹But the dove could find nowhere to perch because there was water over all the surface of the earth; so it returned to Noah in the ark. He reached out his hand and took the dove and brought it back to himself in the ark. ¹⁰He waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark. ¹¹When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth. ¹²He waited seven more days and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him.

¹³By the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundred and first year, the water had dried up from the earth. Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry. ¹⁴By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry.

¹⁵Then God said to Noah, ¹⁶"Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. ¹⁷Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you—the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground—so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number on it."

¹⁸So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. ¹⁹All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds—everything that moves on land—came out of the ark, one kind after another.

²⁰Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. ²¹The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though^c every inclination of the human heart is evil

^a20 That is, about 23 feet or about 6.8 meters ^b20 Or rose more than fifteen cubits, and the mountains were covered ^c21 Or humans, for

8:1 Noah had listened to God and obeyed all his requests. Now the boat was floating over the earth on the floodwaters—not an ideal situation to be in. But God didn't forget about Noah. It is comforting to know that when we obey God, he will not forget us. He will stand by us until his plans for us are complete.

Trouble in Paradise

A JOKE PRINTED in the *St. Louis Pennant* back in 1840 serves as the first known record of a phrase still in use today.

“Why have we every reason to believe that Adam and Eve were both rowdies?” asked the editors.

“Because . . . they both raised Cain.”

Today the phrase “raise Cain” means to cause a lot of trouble—as the biblical Cain surely did. This first human baby, the eldest child of Adam and Eve, grew up to become the world’s first cold-blooded murderer (Genesis 4:1-8).

What drove Cain to kill his younger brother, Abel? Uncontrolled anger. And what caused his anger? The Bible gives a surprising answer: religion.

Scripture tells us that while Cain raised crops, his brother managed livestock. At some point both men wanted to offer the results of their labor as a sacrifice to God. But while God accepted Abel’s offering, he rejected Cain’s—an event that led directly to the world’s first homicide.

Why did God reject Cain’s sacrifice? Apparently it had little to do with the actual items offered. Rather, it came down to the watershed issue that always separates true religion from its deadly counterfeit: faith in God versus confidence in self. The book of Hebrews tells us that Abel offered a better sacrifice than Cain “by faith” (Hebrews 11:4). His genuine faith prompted him to give to God not second-rate leftovers but the very first and best of his flocks (Genesis 4:4). Cain, meanwhile, hoped to impress God and to earn divine favor with his own gifts, but discovered that God cannot be bought. The divine rejection made him so angry that he took out his rage on his brother, then lied about his crime (4:8-9).

Manmade religion—that is, trying to impress God by what we have done—always ends in disaster. We all have a choice when God warns us against trying to impress him with our puny efforts. Will we listen to him, trust him instead of trying to wow him, and do things his way? Or will we insist on our own plans, get angry when they don’t work, blame God for our failures, and then strike out at others?

Make no mistake: We face this choice every day. The New Testament writer Jude warned his readers against following “the way of Cain” (Jude 1:11). He meant that we always face the temptation of choosing self-aggrandizing effort over genuine faith. Every one of us must repeatedly make scores of decisions about whether to trust God and follow his instructions, or depend on ourselves and our ability to get God to stand and applaud.

Some time before Cain struck down his brother, God advised him to do what was right and warned him that he stood in a precarious place. Cain ignored the warning and wound up a murderer. If we ignore similar warnings, do we really think we’ll wind up any better?

Cain hoped to
impress God,
but discovered
that God
cannot be
bought.

THE POINT: Nothing impresses God except genuine faith.

TABLE OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

	BIBLICAL UNIT	APPROXIMATE AMERICAN EQUIVALENT	APPROXIMATE METRIC EQUIVALENT
Weights	talent (60 minas)	75 pounds	34 kilograms
	mina (50 shekels)	1 1/4 pounds	560 grams
	shekel (2 bekas)	2/5 ounce	11.5 grams
	pim (2/3 shekel)	1/4 ounce	7.8 grams
	beka (10 gerahs)	1/5 ounce	5.7 grams
	gerah	1/50 ounce	0.6 gram
	daric	1/3 ounce	8.4 grams
Length	cubit	18 inches	45 centimeters
	span	9 inches	23 centimeters
	handbreadth	3 inches	7.5 centimeters
	stadion (pl. stadia)	600 feet	183 meters
Capacity			
<i>Dry Measure</i>	cor [homer] (10 ephahs)	6 bushels	220 liters
	lethek (5 ephahs)	3 bushels	110 liters
	ephah (10 omers)	3/5 bushel	22 liters
	seah (1/3 ephah)	7 quarts	7.5 liters
	omer (1/10 ephah)	2 quarts	2 liters
	cab (1/18 ephah)	1 quart	1 liter
<i>Liquid Measure</i>	bath (1 ephah)	6 gallons	22 liters
	hin (1/6 bath)	1 gallon	3.8 liters
	log (1/72 bath)	1/3 quart	0.3 liter

The figures of the table are calculated on the basis of a shekel equaling 11.5 grams, a cubit equaling 18 inches and an ephah equaling 22 liters. The quart referred to is either a dry quart (slightly larger than a liter) or a liquid quart (slightly smaller than a liter), whichever is applicable. The ton referred to in the footnotes is the American ton of 2,000 pounds. These weights are calculated relative to the particular commodity involved. Accordingly, the same measure of capacity in the text may be converted into different weights in the footnotes.

This table is based upon the best available information, but it is not intended to be mathematically precise; like the measurement equivalents in the footnotes, it merely gives approximate amounts and distances. Weights and measures differed somewhat at various times and places in the ancient world. There is uncertainty particularly about the ephah and the bath; further discoveries may shed more light on these units of capacity.

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WHAT'S THE POINT QUICK REFERENCE LIST

- Genesis** God created people to have a relationship with him.
- Exodus** God loves his people enough to demand holiness.
- Leviticus** God pays attention to detail.
- Numbers** The road to God's best may not be short.
- Deuteronomy** On your way to a great future, don't ignore the past.
- Joshua** To be a winner, listen to God and show a lot of courage because God is with you.
- Judges** Without the Lord, today's victory won't last long.
- Ruth** God reverses tragedy for his people.
- 1 Samuel** God blesses the man who serves him 100 percent.
- 2 Samuel** Even a superstar can shoot himself in the foot.
- 1 Kings** If leaders don't listen to God, they'll wish they had.
- 2 Kings** Men become like what they worship.
- 1 Chronicles** A godly man can achieve much.
- 2 Chronicles** Those who rely on the Lord make a huge difference in life.
- Ezra** Time in the Word and in prayer is time well spent.
- Nehemiah** Starting all over is hard—but not impossible.
- Esther** God enjoys setting up dramatic results.
- Job** When your life explodes, trust is more important than logic.
- Psalms** God deserves our greatest passion.
- Proverbs** Life is complex—play it smart.
- Ecclesiastes** The externals aren't as great as they look.
- Song of Songs** The love of a good woman is worth cultivating.
- Isaiah** Sin is serious, but God will forgive and restore.
- Jeremiah** When nothing goes right, keep doing right.
- Lamentations** It's no fun to be humbled.
- Ezekiel** When God's favor is squandered, the result is not pretty.
- Daniel** A godly man can thrive under pressure.
- Hosea** God goes the extra mile to rescue his own.
- Joel** Judgment is coming—but so is the Holy Spirit.
- Amos** It takes more than "religion" to impress God.
- Obadiah** Grudges eventually backfire.
- Jonah** It's not smart to dodge God's directive.
- Micah** God is not a soft touch in the face of disobedience.
- Nahum** One generation's revival guarantees nothing for the next.
- Habakkuk** God's justice system can get a little complicated—but it's always perfect.
- Zephaniah** Actions lead to consequences.
- Haggai** God isn't content to play second string.

- Zechariah** The coming Messiah gave Israel a reason for hope.
- Malachi** Don't "play games" with God.
- Matthew** God kept his many promises to send us a Savior.
- Mark** Jesus does more than talk; he makes things happen.
- Luke** Jesus cares about the individual.
- John** This Man is like no other. What will you do with him?
- Acts** The unstoppable grace of God in Christ Jesus is for every race and nation.
- Romans** Everybody has offended God—but God has a solution.
- 1 Corinthians** Sex, money, and power—they all must yield to God's control.
- 2 Corinthians** A tough man can endure tough times.
- Galatians** Working to impress God doesn't work.
- Ephesians** Your potential is huge. Reach for it.
- Philippians** Run for the highest prize.
- Colossians** Christ is Number One—so live like it.
- 1 Thessalonians** Hang tough; your Master is coming back.
- 2 Thessalonians** While you're waiting for the Second Coming . . . get to work!
- 1 Timothy** Character is more important than talent.
- 2 Timothy** Run a strong race and finish well.
- Titus** Give the gospel a good name in the world.
- Philemon** Take time to help the guy who's messed up.
- Hebrews** Jesus is the best. Never take your eyes off of him.
- James** Real Christians don't just stand around.
- 1 Peter** God's people won't always be popular—and that's okay.
- 2 Peter** Don't yield to critics and con men.
- 1 John** Love God intensely, and the rest of life straightens out.
- 2 John** Not every polished speaker knows what he's talking about.
- 3 John** Be a gracious, yet discerning, host.
- Jude** Don't put up with sloppy teaching.
- Revelation** In the end, the Great One wins.