

THE LIVING BIBLE

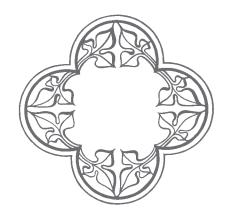
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THE LIVING BIBLE

PARAPHRASED



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Large Print Edition

TYNDALE HOUSE PUBLISHERS, INC.
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Excerpt from William Tyndale's Prologue to the first printed English New Testament, published in 1525:

I have here translated, brethren and sisters most dear and tenderly beloved in Christ, the New Testament for your spiritual edifying, consolation and solace, exhorting instantly and beseeching those that are more knowledgeable in the tongues than I, and that have higher gifts of grace to interpret the sense of Scripture, and meaning of the Spirit, than I, to consider and ponder my labor, and that with the spirit of meekness. And if they perceive in any places that I have not attained the very sense of the tongue, or meaning of the Scripture, or have not given the right English word, that they put to their hands to amend it, remembering that so is their duty to do. For we have not received the gifts of God for ourselves only, or for to hide them; but for to bestow them unto the honoring of God and Christ and edifying of the congregation, which is the body of Christ.

PREFACE

In this wonderful day of many new translations and revisions, we can greet another new one with either dread or joy! Dread that "people will become confused" or joy that some will understand more perfectly what the Bible is talking about. We choose the way of joy! For each new presentation of God's Word will find its circle, large or small, of those to whom it will minister strength and blessing.

This book, though arriving late on the current translation scene, has been under way for many years. It has undergone several major manuscript revisions and has been under the careful scrutiny of a team of Greek and Hebrew experts to check content, and of English critics for style. Their many suggestions have been largely followed, though none of those consulted feels entirely satisfied with the present result. This is therefore a tentative edition. Further suggestions as to both renderings and style will be gladly considered as future printings are called for.

A word should be said here about paraphrases. What are they? To paraphrase is to restate something in different words than the author used, normally with the goal of clarifying the meaning of what was originally communicated. This book is a paraphrase of the Old and New Testaments. Its purpose is to say as exactly as possible what the writers of the Scriptures meant, and to say it simply, expanding where necessary to promote a clear understanding for the modern reader.

The Bible writers often used idioms and patterns of thought that are hard for us to follow today. Frequently the thought sequence is fast-moving, leaving gaps for the reader to understand and fill in, or the thought jumps ahead or backs up to something said before (as one would do in conversation) without clearly stating the antecedent reference. Sometimes the result for us, with our present-day stress on careful sentence construction and sequential logic, is that we are left far behind.

Then, too, the writers often have compressed enormous thoughts into single technical words that are full of meaning, but need expansion and amplification if we are to be sure of understanding what the author meant to include in such words as "justification," "righteousness," "redemption," "baptism for the dead," "elect," and "saints." Such amplification is permitted in a paraphrase but exceeds the responsibilities of a strict translation.

There are dangers in paraphrases, as well as value. For whenever the author's exact words are not translated from the original languages, there is a possibility that the translator, however honest, may be giving the English reader something that the original writer did not mean to say. This is because a paraphrase is guided not only by the translator's skill in simplifying, but also by the clarity of his understanding of what the author meant and by his theology. For when the Greek or Hebrew is not clear, then the theology of the translator is his guide, along with his sense of logic, unless perchance the translation is allowed to stand without any clear meaning at all. The theological lodestar in this book has been a rigid evangelical position.

If this paraphrase helps to simplify the deep and often complex thoughts of the Word of God, and if it makes the Bible easier to understand and follow, deepening the Christian lives of its readers and making it easier for them to follow their Lord, then the book has achieved its goal.

> KENNETH N. TAYLOR Adapted from the preface to the first edition of *Living Letters*



GENESIS

When God began creating* the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was* a shapeless, chaotic mass,* with the Spirit of God brooding over the dark vapors.*

³Then God said, "Let there be light." And light appeared. ⁴⁻⁵And God was pleased with it and divided the light from the darkness. He called the light "daytime," and the darkness "nighttime." Together they formed the first day.*

⁶And God said, "Let the vapors separate* to form the sky above and the oceans below." ⁷⁻⁸So God made the sky, dividing the vapor above from the water below. This all happened on the second day.*

9-10 Then God said, "Let the water beneath the sky be gathered into oceans so that the dry land will emerge." And so it was. Then God named the dry land "earth," and the water "seas." And God was pleased. 11-12 And he said, "Let the earth burst forth with every sort of grass and seed-bearing plant, and fruit trees with seeds inside the fruit, so that these seeds will produce the kinds of plants and fruits they came from." And so it was, and God was pleased. 13 This all occurred on the third day.*

¹⁴⁻¹⁵Then God said, "Let bright lights appear in the sky to give light to the earth and to identify the day and the night; they shall bring about the seasons on the earth, and mark the days and years." And so it was. ¹⁶For God had made two huge lights, the sun and moon, to shine down upon the earth—the larger one, the sun, to preside over the day and the smaller

one, the moon, to preside through the night; he had also made the stars. ¹⁷And God set them in the sky to light the earth, ¹⁸and to preside over the day and night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God was pleased. ¹⁹This all happened on the fourth day.*

²⁰Then God said, "Let the waters teem with fish and other life, and let the skies be filled with birds of every kind." ²¹⁻²²So God created great sea animals, and every sort of fish and every kind of bird. And God looked at them with pleasure, and blessed them all. "Multiply and stock the oceans," he told them, and to the birds he said, "Let your numbers increase. Fill the earth!" ²³That ended the fifth day.*

²⁴And God said, "Let the earth bring forth every kind of animal—cattle and reptiles and wildlife of every kind." And so it was. ²⁵God made all sorts of wild animals and cattle and reptiles. And God was pleased with what he had done.

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make a man*— someone like ourselves,* to be the master of all life upon the earth and in the skies and in the seas."

²⁷ So God made man like his Maker. Like God did God make man; Man and maid did he make them.

²⁸And God blessed them and told them, "Multiply and fill the earth and subdue it; you are masters of the fish and birds and all the animals. ²⁹And look! I have given you the seed-bearing plants throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food. ³⁰And I've given all the grass and plants to the animals

1:1 When God began creating, or "In the beginning God created."

1:2 the earth was, or "the earth became." a shapeless, chaotic mass, or "shapeless and void." over the dark vapors, or "over the cloud of darkness," or "over the darkness and waters," or "over the dark gaseous mass." There is not one correct way to translate these words.

1:4-5 Together they formed the first day, literally, "And there was evening and there was morning, one day (or 'period of time')."

1:6 Let the vapors separate, literally, "Let there be a dome to divide the waters."

1:7-8 This all happened on the second day, literally, "And there was evening and there was morning, a second day (or 'period of time')."

1:13 This all occurred on the third day, literally, "And there was evening and there was morning, a fourth day (or 'period of time')."

1:19 This all happened on the fourth day, literally, "And there was evening and there was morning, a fifth day (or 'period of time')."

1:23 That ended the fifth day, literally, "And there was evening and there was morning, a fifth day (or 'period of time')."

1:26 a man, literally, "men." someone like ourselves, literally, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness."

and birds for their food." ³¹Then God looked over all that he had made, and it was excellent in every way. This ended the sixth day.*

Now at last the heavens and earth were successfully completed, with all that they contained. ²So on the seventh day, having finished his task, God ceased from this work he had been doing, ³and God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he ceased this work of creation.

⁴Here is a summary of the events in the creation of the heavens and earth when the Lord God made them.

⁵There were no plants or grain sprouting up across the earth at first, for the Lord God hadn't sent any rain; nor was there anyone to farm the soil. ⁶(However, water welled up from the ground at certain places and flowed across the land.)

⁷The time came when the Lord God formed a man's body from the dust of the ground* and breathed into it the breath of life. And man became a living person.

⁸Then the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, to the east, and placed in the garden the man he had formed. 9The Lord God planted all sorts of beautiful trees there in the garden, trees producing the choicest of fruit. At the center of the garden he placed the Tree of Life, and also the Tree of Conscience, giving knowledge of Good and Bad. ¹⁰A river from the land of Eden flowed through the garden to water it; afterwards the river divided into four branches. 11-12One of these was named the Pishon; it winds across the entire length of the land of Havilah,* where nuggets of pure gold are found, also beautiful bdellium and even lapis lazuli. 13The second branch is called the Gihon, crossing the entire length of the land of Cush. 14The third branch is the Tigris, which flows to the east of the city of Asher. And the fourth is the Euphrates.

¹⁵The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden as its gardener, to tend and care for it. ¹⁶⁻¹⁷But the Lord God gave the man this warning: "You may eat any fruit in the garden except fruit from the Tree of Conscience—for its fruit will open your eyes to make you aware of right and wrong, good and bad. If you eat its fruit, you will be doomed to die."

¹⁸And the Lord God said, "It isn't good for man to be alone; I will make a companion for him, a helper suited to his needs." ¹⁹⁻²⁰So the Lord God formed from the soil every kind of animal and bird, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever he called them, that was their name. But still there was no proper helper for the man. ²¹Then the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep, and took one of his ribs and closed up the place from which he had removed it, ²²and made the rib into a woman, and brought her to the man.

²³"This is it!" Adam exclaimed. "She is part of my own bone and flesh! Her name is 'woman' because she was taken out of a man." ²⁴This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife in such a way that the two become one person.* ²⁵Now although the man and his wife were both naked, neither of them was embarrassed or ashamed.

The serpent was the craftiest of all the creatures the Lord God had made. So the serpent came to the woman. "Really?" he asked. "None of the fruit in the garden? God says you mustn't eat any of it?"

²⁻³"Of course we may eat it," the woman told him. "It's only the fruit from the tree at the *center* of the garden that we are not to eat. God says we mustn't eat it or even touch it, or we will die."

4"That's a lie!" the serpent hissed. "You'll not die! 5God knows very well that the instant you eat it you will become like him,

^{1:31} This ended the sixth day, literally, "And there was evening and there was morning, a sixth day (or 'period of time')." 2:7 from the dust of the ground, or "from a lump of soil," or "from clods in the soil," or "from a clod of clay." 2:11-12 the land of Havilah, located along the border of Babylonia. 2:24 become one person, literally, "become one flesh."

for your eyes will be opened—you will be able to distinguish good from evil!"

⁶The woman was convinced. How lovely and fresh looking it was! And it would make her so wise! So she ate some of the fruit and gave some to her husband, and he ate it too. ⁷And as they ate it, suddenly they became aware of their nakedness, and were embarrassed. So they strung fig leaves together to cover themselves around the hips.

⁸That evening they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden; and they hid themselves among the trees. ⁹The Lord God called to Adam, "Why are you hiding?"*

¹⁰And Adam replied, "I heard you coming and didn't want you to see me naked. So I hid."

11"Who told you you were naked?" the Lord God asked. "Have you eaten fruit from the tree I warned you about?"

¹²"Yes," Adam admitted, "but it was the woman you gave me who brought me some, and I ate it."

¹³Then the Lord God asked the woman, "How could you do such a thing?"

"The serpent tricked me," she replied. ¹⁴So the Lord God said to the serpent, "This is your punishment: You are singled out from among all the domestic and wild animals of the whole earth—to be cursed. You shall grovel in the dust as long as you live, crawling along on your belly. ¹⁵From now on you and the woman will be enemies, as will your offspring and hers. You will strike his heel, but he will crush your head."

¹⁶Then God said to the woman, "You shall bear children in intense pain and suffering; yet even so, you shall welcome your husband's affections, and he shall be your master."

¹⁷And to Adam, God said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate the fruit when I told you not to, I have placed a curse upon the soil. All your life you will struggle to extract a living from it. ¹⁸It will grow thorns and thistles for you, and you shall eat its grasses. ¹⁹All your life you will sweat to master it, until your

dying day. Then you will return to the ground from which you came. For you were made from the ground, and to the ground you will return."

²⁰The man named his wife Eve (meaning "The life-giving one"),* for he said, "She shall become the mother of all mankind"; ²¹and the Lord God clothed Adam and his wife with garments made from skins of animals.

²²Then the Lord said, "Now that the man has become as we are, knowing good from bad, what if he eats the fruit of the Tree of Life and lives forever?"

²³So the Lord God banished him forever from the Garden of Eden, and sent him out to farm the ground from which he had been taken. ²⁴Thus God expelled him, and placed mighty angels at the east of the Garden of Eden, with a flaming sword to guard the entrance to the Tree of Life.

Then Adam had sexual intercourse with Eve his wife, and she conceived and gave birth to a son, Cain (meaning "I have created"). For, as she said, "With God's help, I have created a man!" ²Her next child was his brother, Abel.

Abel became a shepherd, while Cain was a farmer. ³At harvest time Cain brought the Lord a gift of his farm produce, ⁴and Abel brought the fatty cuts of meat from his best lambs, and presented them to the Lord. And the Lord accepted Abel's offering, ⁵but not Cain's. This made Cain both dejected and very angry, and his face grew dark with fury.

6"Why are you angry?" the Lord asked him. "Why is your face so dark with rage? 7It can be bright with joy if you will do what you should! But if you refuse to obey, watch out. Sin is waiting to attack you, longing to destroy you. But you can conquer it!"

⁸One day Cain suggested to his brother, "Let's go out into the fields." And while they were together there, Cain attacked and killed his brother.

⁹But afterwards the Lord asked Cain, "Where is your brother? Where is Abel?"

"How should I know?" Cain retorted. "Am I supposed to keep track of him wherever he goes?"

¹⁰But the Lord said, "Your brother's blood calls to me from the ground. What have you done? ¹¹You are hereby banished from this ground which you have defiled with your brother's blood. ¹²No longer will it yield crops for you, even if you toil on it forever! From now on you will be a fugitive and a tramp upon the earth, wandering from place to place."

¹³Cain replied to the Lord, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. ¹⁴For you have banished me from my farm and from you, and made me a fugitive and a tramp; and everyone who sees me will try to kill me."

¹⁵The Lord replied, "They won't kill you, for I will give seven times your punishment to anyone who does." Then the Lord put an identifying mark on Cain as a warning not to kill him. ¹⁶So Cain went out from the presence of the Lord and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

¹⁷Then Cain's wife conceived and presented him with a baby son named Enoch; so when Cain founded a city, he named it Enoch, after his son.

¹⁸Enoch was the father of* Irad; Irad was the father of Mehujael; Mehujael was the father of Methusael; Methusael was the father of Lamech.

¹⁹Lamech married two wives—Adah and Zillah. ²⁰To Adah was born a baby named Jabal. He became the first of the cattlemen and those living in tents. ²¹His brother's name was Jubal, the first musician—the inventor of the harp and flute.* ²²To Lamech's other wife, Zillah, was born Tubal-cain. He opened the first foundry* forging instruments of bronze and iron.

²³One day Lamech said to Adah and Zillah, "Listen to me, my wives. I have killed

a youth who attacked and wounded me. ²⁴If anyone who kills Cain will be punished seven times, anyone taking revenge against me for killing that youth should be punished seventy-seven times!"

²⁵Later on Eve gave birth to another son and named him Seth (meaning "Granted"); for, as Eve put it, "God has granted me another son for the one Cain killed." ²⁶When Seth grew up, he had a son and named him Enosh. It was during his lifetime that men first began to call themselves "the Lord's people."*

5 Here is a list of some of the descendants of Adam*—the man who was like God* from the day of his creation. ²God created man and woman and blessed them, and called them Man from the start.

³⁻⁵Adam: Adam was 130 years old when his son Seth was born,* the very image of his father in every way.* After Seth was born,* Adam lived another 800 years, producing sons and daughters, and died at the age of 930.

⁶⁻⁸Seth: Seth was 105 years old when his son Enosh was born. Afterwards he lived another 807 years, producing sons and daughters, and died at the age of 912.

⁹⁻¹¹Enosh: Enosh was ninety years old when his son Kenan was born. Afterwards he lived another 815 years, producing sons and daughters, and died at the age of 905.

¹²⁻¹⁴Kenan: Kenan was seventy years old when his son Mahalalel was born. Afterwards he lived another 840 years, producing sons and daughters, and died at the age of 910.

¹⁵⁻¹⁷Mahalalel: Mahalalel was sixty-five years old when his son Jared was born. Afterwards he lived 830 years, producing sons and daughters, and died at the age of 895.

¹⁸⁻²⁰Jared: Jared was 162 years old when his son Enoch was born. Afterwards he

4:18 Enoch was the father of, or "the ancestor of," and so also in the remainder of the verse.

4:21 the inventor of the harp and lute, literally, "the father of all such as handle the harp and pipe."

4:22 He opened the first foundry, literally, "He was the father of all metal workers in bronze and iron."

4:26 It was during . . . "the Lord's people," literally, "This man was the first to invoke the name of Jehovah."

5:1 Here is a list of some of the descendants of Adam, literally, "This is the roll of Adam's descendants." the man who was like God, literally, "in the likeness of God."

5:3-5 when his son Seth was born, or by Hebrew usage, "when his son, the ancestor (of Seth) was born." So also in vv. 6, 9, 15, 18, 21, 25, 28, 32. the very image of his father in every way, literally, "in his own likeness, after his image." After Seth was born, or by Hebrew usage, "After this ancestor of Seth was born."

lived another 800 years, producing sons and daughters, and died at the age of 962.

²¹⁻²⁴Enoch: Enoch was sixty-five years old when his son Methuselah was born. Afterwards he lived another 300 years in fellowship with God, and produced sons and daughters; then, when he was 365, and in constant touch with God, he disappeared, for God took him!

²⁵⁻²⁷Methuselah: Methuselah was 187 years old when his son Lamech was born; afterwards he lived another 782 years, producing sons and daughters, and died at the age of 969.

²⁸⁻³¹Lamech: Lamech was 182 years old when his son Noah was born. Lamech named him Noah (meaning "Relief") because he said, "He will bring us relief from the hard work of farming this ground which God has cursed." Afterwards Lamech lived 595 years, producing sons and daughters, and died at the age of 777.

³²Noah: Noah was 500 years old and had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Now a population explosion took place upon the earth. It was at this time that beings from the spirit world* looked upon the beautiful earth women and took any they desired to be their wives. ³Then Jehovah said, "My Spirit must not forever be disgraced in man, wholly evil as he is. I will give him 120 years to mend his ways."

⁴In those days, and even afterwards, when the evil beings from the spirit world were sexually involved with human women, their children became giants, of whom so many legends are told. ⁵When the Lord God saw the extent of human wickedness, and that the trend and direction of men's lives were only towards evil, ⁶he was sorry he had made them. It broke his heart.

⁷And he said, "I will blot out from the face of the earth all mankind that I created. Yes, and the animals too, and the reptiles and the birds. For I am sorry I made them."

⁸But Noah was a pleasure to the Lord. Here is the story of Noah: ⁹⁻¹⁰He was the only truly righteous man living on the earth at that time. He tried always to conduct his affairs according to God's will. And he had three sons—Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

¹¹Meanwhile, the crime rate was rising rapidly across the earth, and, as seen by God, the world was rotten to the core.

12-13 As God observed how bad it was, and saw that all mankind was vicious and depraved, he said to Noah, "I have decided to destroy all mankind; for the earth is filled with crime because of man. Yes, I will destroy mankind from the earth. 14 Make a boat from resinous wood, sealing it with tar; and construct decks and stalls throughout the ship. 15 Make it 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. 16 Construct a skylight all the way around the ship, eighteen inches below the roof; and make three decks inside the boat—a bottom, middle, and upper deck—and put a door in the side.

with a flood and destroy every living being—everything in which there is the breath of life. All will die. ¹⁸But I promise to keep you safe in the ship, with your wife and your sons and their wives. ¹⁹⁻²⁰Bring a pair of every animal—a male and a female—into the boat with you, to keep them alive through the flood. Bring in a pair of each kind of bird and animal and reptile. ²¹Store away in the boat all the food that they and you will need." ²²And Noah did everything as God commanded him.

Finally the day came when the Lord said to Noah, "Go into the boat with all your family, for among all the people of the earth, I consider you alone to be righteous. ²Bring in the animals, too—a pair of each, except those kinds I have chosen for eating and for sacrifice: take seven pairs of each of them, ³and seven pairs* of every kind of bird. Thus there will be every kind of

life reproducing again after the flood has ended. ⁴One week from today I will begin forty days and nights of rain; and all the animals and birds and reptiles I have made will die."

⁵So Noah did everything the Lord commanded him. ⁶He was 600 years old when the flood came. ⁷He boarded the boat with his wife and sons and their wives, to escape the flood. ⁸⁻⁹With him were all the various kinds of animals—those for eating and sacrifice, and those that were not, and the birds and reptiles. They came into the boat in pairs, male and female, just as God commanded Noah.

¹⁰⁻¹²One week later, when Noah was 600 years, two months, and seventeen days old, the rain came down in mighty torrents from the sky, and the subterranean waters burst forth upon the earth for forty days and nights. 13But Noah had gone into the boat that very day with his wife and his sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and their wives. ¹⁴⁻¹⁵With them in the boat were pairs of every kind of animal—domestic and wild—and reptiles and birds of every sort. ¹⁶Two by two they came, male and female, just as God had commanded. Then the Lord God* closed the door and shut them in.

¹⁷For forty days the roaring floods prevailed, covering the ground and lifting the boat high above the earth. 18 As the water rose higher and higher above the ground, the boat floated safely upon it; 19until finally the water covered all the high mountains under the whole heaven, ²⁰standing twenty-two feet and more above the highest peaks. ²¹And all living things upon the earth perished birds, domestic and wild animals, and reptiles and all mankind—22everything that breathed and lived upon dry land. ²³All existence on the earth was blotted out—man and animals alike, and reptiles and birds. God destroyed them all, leaving only Noah alive, and those with

him in the boat. ²⁴And the water covered the earth 150 days.

God didn't forget about Noah and all the animals in the boat! He sent a wind to blow across the waters, and the floods began to disappear, ²for the subterranean water sources ceased their gushing, and the torrential rains subsided. ³⁻⁴So the flood gradually receded until, 150 days after it began, the boat came to rest upon the mountains of Ararat. ⁵Three months later,* as the waters continued to go down, other mountain peaks appeared.

⁶After another forty days, Noah opened a porthole ⁷and released a raven that flew back and forth* until the earth was dry. ⁸Meanwhile he sent out a dove to see if it could find dry ground, ⁹but the dove found no place to light, and returned to Noah, for the water was still too high. So Noah held out his hand and drew the dove back into the boat.

¹⁰Seven days later Noah released the dove again, ¹¹and this time, toward evening, the bird returned to him with an olive leaf in her beak. So Noah knew that the water was almost gone. ¹²A week later he released the dove again, and this time she didn't come back.

¹³Twenty-nine days after that,* Noah opened the door to look, and the water was gone. ¹⁴Eight more weeks went by. Then at last the earth was dry. ¹⁵⁻¹⁶Then God told Noah, "You may all go out. ¹⁷Release all the animals, birds, and reptiles, so that they will breed abundantly and reproduce in great numbers." ¹⁸⁻¹⁹So the boat was soon empty. Noah, his wife, and his sons and their wives all disembarked, along with all the animals, reptiles, and birds—all left the ark in pairs and groups.

²⁰Then Noah built an altar and sacrificed on it some of the animals and birds God had designated* for that purpose. ²¹And Jehovah was pleased with

7:16 the Lord God, literally, "Jehovah." 8:5 Three months later, literally, "On the first day of the tenth month." 8:7 a raven that flew back and forth. Apparently lighting from time to time upon carcasses of dead animals floating on the water. The dove that Noah next dispatched would not alight on such floating carrion and was thus a good indication of the water level. 8:13 Twenty-nine days after that, literally, "In the 601st year, in the first month, the first day of the month." 8:20 some of the animals and birds God had designated, literally, "clean," i.e., ritually approved by God.

BIBLE READING PLAN

INTRODUCTION

We usually think of the Bible as one book. That's logical because it looks like one book and claims to come from one Author. We also speak of it as God's Word. But when we read and study the Bible, we discover that it is actually an entire library between two covers. Not one book, but 66 (39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament)! Each book has its own style and uniqueness—yet each book contributes to the message God wants to convey throughout his Word. What's more, though we use the word book, some parts of the Bible are letters (like Paul's letter to the Romans) or song collections (like Psalms). Still, the overall message of the Bible is one message because it has one main Author—God. The styles throughout the Bible vary because God teamed up with dozens of people to write his Word.

HOW THIS PLAN IS DIFFERENT

There are many plans to help you read through the Bible library. You can even start at page one and read straight through. The approach taken here, however, is designed to help you get a taste of the whole Bible by reading short selections from it each day throughout the year. You will be reading the best-known stories and many of the most important passages. Some parts of the Bible offer so much help that they can be read every day. Among these are the Gospels, Psalms, and Proverbs. One way or another, you need to get into God's Word!

OLD TESTAMENT

January 1 / Genesis 1:1–2:3 / How It All Began

January 2 / Genesis 2:15-3:24 / Adam and Eve

January 3 / Genesis 4:1-16 / Cain and Abel

January 4 / Genesis 6:9-22 / Noah Builds a Boat

January 5 / Genesis 7:1-24 / The Great Flood

January 6 / Genesis 8:1-22 / A Long Wait

January 7 / Genesis 9:1-17 / Rules and Rainbows

January 8 / Genesis 11:1-9 / Tower of Babel

January 9 / Genesis 12:1-9; 17:1-8 / God's Promises to Abraham

January 10 / Genesis 18:1-15 / Unusual Visitors

January 11 / Genesis 19:15-29 / Sodom and Gomorrah

January 12 / Genesis 21:8-21 / Hagar and Ishmael

January 13 / Genesis 22:1-19 / Abraham's Painful Decision January 14 / Genesis 24:1-27 / A Man Named Eliezer January 15 / Genesis 24:28-67 / Isaac and Rebekah January 16 / Genesis 25:19-34 / Jacob and Esau January 17 / Genesis 27:1-40 / Jacob Tricks His Father January 18 / Genesis 28:10-22 / Jacob's Dream at Bethel January 19 / Genesis 29:14-30 / Jacob's Marriages January 20 / Genesis 32:1–33:16 / Jacob Returns Home January 21 / Genesis 37:1-36 / Jacob's Children January 22 / Genesis 39:1-23 / Joseph in Trouble January 23 / Genesis 40:1-23 / Dreams in the Prison January 24 / Genesis 41:1-36 / Dreams in the Palace January 25 / Genesis 41:37-57 / Joseph Made Ruler January 26 / Genesis 42:1-38 / Joseph's Brothers Go to Egypt January 27 / Genesis 43:1-34 / The Brothers Return to Egypt January 28 / Genesis 44:1-34 / Crisis in the Palace January 29 / Genesis 45:1-28 / Joseph Reveals His Identity January 30 / Genesis 49:1-33 / Jacob's Final Words January 31 / Exodus 1:8-2:10 / The Birth of Moses February 1 / Exodus 2:11-25 / Moses on the Run February 2 / Exodus 3:1-22 / God's Burning Bush February 3 / Exodus 4:1-17 / Moses Is Uncertain February 4 / Exodus 5:1-23 / Moses Confronts Pharaoh February 5 / Exodus 6:1-13 / God Promises Deliverance February 6 / Exodus 7:1-14 / Pharaoh's Stubbornness February 7 / Exodus 7:15–9:7 / The First Five Plagues February 8 / Exodus 9:8–10:29 / Four More Plagues February 9 / Exodus 11:1-10; 12:29-36 / The Ultimate Plague February 10 / Exodus 13:17–14:31 / A Narrow Escape February 11 / Exodus 15:22-27; 17:1-7 / God Provides Water February 12 / Exodus 16:1-36 / God's Food Supply February 13 / Exodus 18:1-27 / Helpful Advice February 14 / Exodus 19:1-25 / A Meeting with God February 15 / Exodus 20:1-22 / The Ten Commandments February 16 / Exodus 32:1-29 / The Calf of Gold February 17 / Exodus 40:1-38 / Instructions for God's Tent February 18 / Numbers 12:1-16 / Moses under Fire February 19 / Numbers 13:1–14:4 / Spying out the Land February 20 / Numbers 14:5-45 / A Majority That Was Wrong February 21 / Numbers 21:4-9 / Another Hard Lesson February 22 / Numbers 22:5-38 / Balaam and His Donkey February 23 / Deuteronomy 29:1-29 / Moses Reviews God's Actions February 24 / Deuteronomy 30:1-20 / Moses Challenges the People February 25 / Deuteronomy 31:1-8 / Moses Appoints New Leaders February 26 / Deuteronomy 34:1-12 / The Death of Moses February 27 / Joshua 1:1-18 / The Lord Takes Command February 28 / Joshua 2:1-24 / Spies Visit Jericho March 1 / Joshua 3:1-17 / The Invasion of Canaan March 2 / Joshua 5:13-6:27 / The Battle of Jericho March 3 / Joshua 7:1-26 / Ultimate Consequences March 4 / Joshua 10:1-15 / The Longest Day March 5 / Joshua 23:1-16 / Joshua Warns the Leaders March 6 / Joshua 24:1-31 / Joshua's Last Words



TOPICAL CONCORDANCE

A	Prv 18:20Ability to give wise advice
ABANDONING	Dn 1:4well informed, alert and sensible,
By God	Mt 25:15in proportion to their abilities
Dt 31:17I will abandon them	1 Tm 3:10as a test of their character and ability,
Jgs 6:13Now the Lord has thrown us away	ABUNDANCE
1 Kgs 14:16He will abandon Israel	A gift of God
2 Kgs 21:14 I will hand them over to their enemies	Dt 30:9your God will prosper everything
Ps 22:1	you do
forsaken me? Ps 78:60he abandoned his Tabernacle	Job 36:31blesses the people, giving them food in abundance.
Is 2:6The Lord has rejected you	Is 30:23God will bless you with rain
Jer 12:7I have abandoned my people,	Is 55:7he will abundantly pardon
Jer 23:33the Lord has cast you away!	Jer 2:7I brought them into a fruitful land,
Hos 5:15I will abandon them and return	Am 9:13 there will be such abundance of crops,
to my home	Rom 5:20we see God's abounding grace
Of God and his laws	2 Cor 9:8giving you everything you need
Dt 31:16worshiping foreign gods	Eph 2:8it too is a gift from God.
Jgs 10:6Israel turned away from the Lord	Phil 4:19it is he who will supply all your needs
1 Kgs 9:9Israel abandoned the Lord	ACCUSATION
2 Kgs 22:17 people of Judah have thrown me aside	False
2 Chr 7:22Because his people abandoned	Ex 23:1Do not pass along untrue reports.
the Lord	Ex 23:7Keep away from falsely charging
Ezra 9:10again we have abandoned you	anyone
Is 1:4they have turned their backs upon	Lev 19:16Don't falsely accuse your neighbor
the Lord	Dt 22:19he has falsely accused a virgin
Jer 2:13have forsaken me,	1 Kgs 21:13two men who had no conscience
Of Christ	accused him
Mt 27:46My God, my God, why have you	Ezra 4:6they wrote him a letter of accusation
forsaken me?	Is 58:9stop making false accusations
Mk 14:50all his disciples had fled.	Mt 5:11lied about because you are my
Mk 15:34my God, why have you deserted me?	followers
Jn 6:66many of his disciples turned away	Mt 27:12made their many accusations against
ABILITY	him, Mk 15:3-4chief priests accused him of many
God-given	crimes,
Ex 31.3giving him great wisdom, ability, and skill	Acts 6:11 brought in some men to lie about him
Ex 36:1craftsmen with God-given abilities	ACHIEVEMENT, See success
Dn 1:17God gave these four youths great	ADOPTION
ability Acts 2.4 the Hely Spirit gave them this chility	Examples of
Acts 2:4the Holy Spirit gave them this ability 1 Cor 12:1special abilities the Holy Spirit gives	Gen 15:2-3another member of my household
1 Cor 12:1special abilities the Holy Spirit gives 1 Cor 12:11who gives all these gifts and powers,	will inherit
1 Pt 4:10God has given each of you some	Gen 48:5I am adopting them as my own,
special abilities;	Ex 2:10he became her son.
_	Est 2:7whom he had adopted into his
Natural Leb 20:20 my obilities were constantly	own family
Job 29:20my abilities were constantly refreshed	Acts 7:21found him and adopted him as her own son,

Adultery 1076

Of Israel by God Ex 4:22Israel is my eldest son, Is 43:6I will bring my sons and daughters	2 Sm 12:14so your child shall die. 2 Chr 7:20then I will destroy my people Ps 106:43were finally destroyed by their sin.
back Is 63:16surely you are still our Father!	Ps 107:12fell and none could help them Ezek 14:10all will be punished for their sins,
Jer 3:19I looked forward to your calling me Father,	Prayer in Ex 17:4Then Moses pleaded with Jehovah.
Jer 31:9I am a Father to Israel, Hos 11:1I loved him as a son, and brought him out of Egypt.	Jgs 4:2-3they begged the Lord for help Jgs 6:6-7Israel began to cry out to the Lord 1 Sm 1:10crying bitterly as she prayed
Of believers Rom 8:15 adopted into the bosom of his family, Rom 8:23 our full rights as his children,	2 Sm 12:16David begged him to spare the child, 2 Kgs 19:15Then he prayed this prayer: Ps 4:1in my distress; now hear me as I call
2 Cor 6:18you will be my sons and daughters. Gal 4:5so that he could adopt us as his very own	Ps 34:6This poor man cried to the Lord Jer 18:19O Lord, help me! See what they are planning
Eph 1:5plan has always been to adopt us	Lam 2:18 Then the people wept before the Lord. Joel 1:19help us! The heat has withered the
ADULTERY, See FORNICATION Examples of	pastures
Gen 38:18she let him come and sleep with her;	Mt 14:30Save me, Lord! he shouted.
2 Sm 11:4when she came David slept with her.	Mt 26:39let this cup be taken away from me. Acts 7:59Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.
2 Sm 16:22to lie with his father's wives. Mk 6:17-18Herodias, his brother Philip's wife.	2 Cor 12:8I begged God to make me well
Jn 8:4caught in the very act of adultery.	Jas 5:13He should keep on praying about it.
Forbidden	Benefits of
Ex 20:14You must not commit adultery. Lev 20:10If a man commits adultery Dt 5:18You must not commit adultery.	2 Chr 7:14forgive their sins and heal their land. Job 23:10he will pronounce me completely innocent
Penalties of	Job 36:10to turn them away from their sin.
Lev 19:20tried in a court but not put to death,	Ps 66:12brought us into wealth and great abundance.
Lev 20:10both shall be put to death. Jn 8:5Moses' law says to kill her.	Ps 94:12-13 This makes us follow his paths,
1 Cor 6:9-10adulterers have no share in his	Ps 119:67now I closely follow all you say. Prv 3:11-12punishment is proof of his love.
kingdom Rev 21:8their doom is the Lake that burns with fire	Ezek 14:11people of Israel will learn not to desert
Christ's teaching	Zec 13:9make them pure, as gold and silver
Mt 5:28Anyone who even looks at a woman with lust	Jn 15:2he prunes those branches that bear fruit Acts 14:22Kingdom of God through many
Mt 5:32 he who marries her commits adultery.	tribulations.
Mt 15:19from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery,	Rom 5:3help us learn to be patient Rom 8:37overwhelming victory is ours
Mk 10:11if he marries someone else, he commits adultery	2 Cor 4:17will result in God's richest blessing Heb 12:11the result, a quiet growth in grace
Figurative, See Idol worship	Jas 1:4strong in character, full and complete
ADVOCATE, See HOLY SPIRIT	1 Pt 2:20patient beneath the blows, God is
Christ our advocate	well pleased. Endurance under
Heb 7:25to remind God that he has paid for their sins	2 Sm 12:16lay all night before the Lord
1 Jn 2:1there is someone to plead for you	Job 1:22Job did not sin or revile God.
AFFECTION, See LOVE	Ps 15:4keeps a promise even if it ruins him, Ps 39:1I'm going to quit complaining!
AFFLICTION, See suffering	Ps 55:22He will not permit the godly to slip
The result of sin	Dn 9:3 I prayed, I fasted, and wore sackcloth,
Dt 28:47-48 you will become slaves to your enemies Dt 29:28 the Lord rooted them out of their land	Mt 10:22you who endure to the end shall be saved.
Dt 30:18you shall surely perish;	Lk 21:19stand firm, you will win your souls.

Angel(s) 1077

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Rom 12:12Be patient in trouble, 2 Thes 1:4your patience and complete faith	1 Kgs 1:5he decided to crown himself king Est 5:11had become the greatest man in
in God, Heb 12:1run with patience the particular race Jas 1:4your patience is finally in full bloom,	the kingdom Mt 20:21let my two sons sit on two thrones 2 Thes 2:4sit as God in the temple of God,
Jas 5:11stayed true to him Consolation under	3 Jn 1:9one who loves to push himself forward
Gen 21:18I will make a great nation from his descendants.	Corrupted, See Lust Ps 49:11You name your estates after
Ex 3:8I have come to deliver them from the Egyptians	yourselves Hab 2:5In their greed they have collected
Ps 9:9He is a refuge for them in their trouble.	many nations, Hab 2:9getting rich by evil means,
Ps 23:4you are close beside me, guarding, guiding	Mt 4:9if you will only kneel and worship me.
Is 25:4O Lord, you are a refuge from the storm, Is 40:1Comfort, oh comfort my people,	Mt 18:1which of them would be greatest Lk 22:24 as to who would have the highest rank Jas 4:2You long for what others have,
Mt 5:4for they shall be comforted. Mt 11:28Come to me and I will give you rest	1 Jn 2:16the ambition to buy everything that appeals to you,
Jn 16:33have peace of heart and mind.	Prescribed (Right)
Rom 8:38nothing can ever separate us	Dt 4:29begin to search again for Jehovah
2 Thes 1:7God will give you rest Heb 4:15he understands our weaknesses,	Ps 14:2any who are wise, who want to
1 Pt 5:7Let him have all your worries	please God.
and cares,	Prv 28:5they are much concerned about justice
Deliverance from	Mt 16:24deny himself and take up his cross
Ps 34:4he answered me! He freed me	Lk 11:9keep on asking and you will receive
Ps 40:2He lifted me out of the pit	Lk 12:31make the Kingdom of God your
Is 63:9he personally saved them. Jon 2:2I cried to the Lord and he answered	primary concern. Lk 13:24-25Work hard to get into heaven
me;	Rom 15:20my ambition has been to go still
2 Tm 3:11but the Lord delivered me.	farther,
2 Tm 4:17he saved me from being thrown to the lions.	1 Cor 9:24So run your race to win. 1 Cor 12:31try your best to have the more
AGONY, See suffering; Affliction ALIENS	important gifts. 1 Cor 14:12anxious to have special gifts from
Privileges of	the Holy Spirit
Ex 22:21You must not oppress a stranger in any way;	Phil 3:14I strain to reach the end of the race 2 Tm 2:22to anything that makes you want to
Lev 19:33do not wrong them.	do right.
Nm 35:15for the protection of foreigners and	ANGEL(S)
travelers.	Of the Lord Gen 16:7The Angel of the Lord found her
Dt 10:19you must love foreigners. Jos 20:9Cities of Refuge were for foreigners	Gen 21:17the Angel of God called to Hagar
Jer 22:3Protect the rights of aliens	Gen 22:15the Angel of God called again
ALONE, See LONELINESS	Ex 3:2suddenly the Angel of Jehovah appeared
AMBITION	Ex 23:23my Angel shall go before you
Examples of	Nm 22:24the angel of the Lord stood at a place
Gen 11:3-4they began to talk about building a great city,	Jgs 2:1the Angel of the Lord arrived at Bochim,
Nm 12:2Has the Lord spoken only through	Jgs 6:12The Angel of the Lord appeared
Moses?	to him
Nm 16:2to incite a rebellion against Moses.	1 Kgs 19:7the angel of the Lord came again
2 Sm 15:4I surely wish I were the judge;	Ps 34:7the Angel of the Lord guards Is 37:36. That night the Angel of the Lord
2 Sm 15:10he sent spies to incite rebellion against David	Is 37:36That night the Angel of the Lord Zec 1:11reported to the Angel of the Lord.

Zec 1:11reported to the Angel of the Lord,

against David

Anger 1078

8	
Appearances of	Remedy for
Gen 18:2he noticed three men coming toward	Prv 15:1soft answer turns away
him.	Prv 21:14angry man is silenced by giving
Gen 19:1two angels came to the entrance of	Eph 4:26Don't let the sun go down with
the city	you angry.
Gen 28:12he saw the angels of God	ANGER, DIVINE
Jgs 13:2-3one day the Angel of the Lord	Examples of
2 Sm 24:17David saw the angel,	-
1 Kgs 19:7the angel of the Lord came again	Ex 22:24my anger shall flame against you,
Dn 6:22My God has sent his angel,	Nm 11:1His anger flared out against them Nm 25:3the anger of the Lord was hot
Mt 1:20saw an angel standing beside him.	Dt 29:20His anger and jealousy will be hot
Lk 1:30the angel told her,	2 Kgs 22:12-13you must be very angry with us,
Acts 5:19angel of the Lord came at night,	Job 9:13God does not abate his anger.
Acts 8:26as for Philip, an angel of the Lord said	=
Acts 27:23 an angel of the God to whom I belong	Is 5:25the anger of the Lord is hot Is 13:9terrible day of his wrath
Rev 1:1an angel was sent from heaven	Jer 4:4my anger will burn you
Rev 19:9the angel dictated this sentence	Jer 32:37in my fury I will scatter them.
	Ezek 25:14They will carry out my furious
Duties and responsibilities of Gen 3:24to guard the entrance to the Tree	vengeance.
of Life.	Hos 11:9my fierce anger tells me to.
Gen 24:7 He will send his angel on ahead of you,	Mk 3:5Looking around at them angrily,
Ex 23:20 I am sending an Angel before you	Jn 3:36wrath of God remains upon them.
2 Kgs 1:15the angel of the Lord said to Elijah	Rom 1:18God shows his anger from heaven
Ps 91:11he orders his angels to protect you	1 Cor 10:22the Lord to be angry with you?
Lk 16:22carried by the angels to be with	Eph 5:6terrible wrath of God is upon all
Abraham	Heb 3:11full of this anger against them,
Jn 5:4an angel of the Lord came from time	Rev 14:10the wine of the anger of God;
to time	
Acts 10:3in this vision he saw an angel	Propitiation of
Acts 12:7The angel slapped him on the side	Rom 3:25Jesus to take the punishment for
Heb 1:7his angels as messengers swift as	our sins
the wind	Rom 5:9to save us from all of God's wrath
ANGER	Col 1:20Christ's death on the cross has made
Examples of	peace
Gen 4:5Cain both dejected and very angry,	1 Thes 1:10Jesus our only Savior from God's
Gen 27:44until your brother's fury is spent,	terrible anger
Ex 32:19in terrible anger he threw the tablets	ANOINTED ONE, See CHRIST, NAMES OF
Jgs 8:1Ephraim were violently angry	Of the Lord
1 Sm 20:30Saul boiled with rage.	1 Sm 12:3before his anointed king
1 Kgs 21:4to the palace angry and sullen.	2 Sm 23:1the anointed of the God of Jacob;
2 Kgs 5:11Naaman was angry and stalked	2 Kgs 9:3the Lord has anointed him to be king
Est 1:12The king was furious,	1 Chr 11:3anointed him as king of Israel,
Est 3:5-6Haman was furious,	Ps 84:9on the one you have anointed as
Job 32:3angry with Job's three friends	your king.
Jon 4:1plans made Jonah very angry.	Is 45:1to Cyrus, God's anointed
Mt 2:16Herod was furious	Dn 9:25until the Anointed One comes!
Acts 23:3God shall slap you,	Zec 4:14 two anointed ones who assist the Lord
Nature and effects of	Lk 2:26he had seen him—God's anointed
Gen 44:18you can doom me in an instant,	King.
Ps 37:8worry—it only leads to harm.	ANOINTING
Ps 69:24the fierceness of your anger.	In grooming
Prv 15:18quick-tempered man starts fights;	Dt 28:40olive oil to anoint yourselves!
Prv 19:11wise man restrains his anger	Ps 104:15olive oil is a lotion for his skin,
Prv 29:22gets into all kinds of trouble.	Am 6:6perfume ourselves with sweet
Is 30:27Lord's lips are filled with fury;	ointments,
Jer 44:6nfury and anger boiled forth Jas 1:20anger doesn't make us good,	Mi 6:15not get enough to anoint yourself!
jus 1.20anger doesn't make us good,	1.11 0.15 get enough to anomit yourself:

1079 Backsliding

For dedication Ex 28:41by anointing their heads with olive oil, Ex 29:29for his anointing ceremony. Lev 6:19-20 Aaron and his sons are anointed	2 Chr 18:33where the lower armor and the breastplate meet. Ps 35:2Put on your armor, take your shield Prv 6:11attacks you in full armor. Jer 46:3Buckle on your armor, you Egyptians
Nm 3:3All were anointed as priests 1 Sm 9:16You are to anoint him as leader 1 Sm 16:3I will show you which of his sons to anoint.	Jer 46:4sharpen your spears, put on your armor. Figurative Rom 13:12-13 put on the armor of right living,
1 Kgs 1:39poured it over Solomon; 1 Kgs 19:16anoint Jehu to be king of Israel, 2 Kgs 9:6young man poured the oil over his head	Eph 6:11Put on all of God's armor Eph 6:13use every piece of God's armor 1 Thes 5:8protected by the armor of faith
2 Kgs 11:12Jehoiada anointed him as king. For burial	ASCENSION Of Enoch
Mt 26:12prepare my body for burial. Mk 14:8anointed my body ahead of time Lk 23:56ointments to embalm him; Of Christ	Gen 5:21-24he disappeared, for God took him!Of Elijah2 Kgs 2:11was carried by a whirlwind into heaven.
Mk 14:3she poured it over his head Lk 7:38poured the perfume on them. Jn 12:3Mary anointed Jesus' feet with it	Of Jesus Mk 16:19he was taken up into heaven Lk 24:51began rising into the sky, and went on to heaven.
Figurative Is 61:1the Lord has anointed me to bring good news	Acts 1:9he rose into the sky ASSURANCE, See CONFIDENCE
Acts 4:27Jesus, your anointed Son,	ATONEMENT Day of
APOSTLES	Ex 30:10sin offering for atonement.
Lists of the twelve	Lev 23:26-27The Day of Atonement follows nine
Mt 10:2-4the names of his twelve disciples: Mk 3:16-19the names of the twelve he chose:	days later:
Lk 6:14-16Here are their names:	Lev 25:9on the Day of Atonement, let the
Acts 1:14the list of those who were present	trumpets blow Nm 29:7a day of solemn humility
Calling of	1 Chr 6:49annual Day of Atonement
Mt 4:19Jesus called out, Come along with me	By Christ
Mt 9:9Come and be my disciple,	Mt 20:28to give my life as a ransom
Mk 1:17Come, follow me! Lk 5:11they left everything and went with	Gal 4:5 to buy freedom for us who were slaves
him.	Eph 1:5sending Jesus Christ to die for us.
Jn 1:37they turned and followed Jesus.	1 Tm 2:6by giving his life for all mankind. Heb 9:12once for all took blood into that
Mission of	inner room,
Mt 28:19go and make disciples in all nations, Mk 3:14-15to go out to preach and to cast out	AWE, See FEAR OF GOD
demons	В
Mk 16:15go into all the world and preach Jn 15:27you must tell everyone about me,	BACKSLIDING
Jn 21:16take care of my sheep,	Examples of
Acts 1:8testify about me with great effect,	1 Sm 15:26Saul, you have rejected the Lord's
Acts 13:31testified to this in public witness.	commandment 1 Kgs 11:3Solomon turned his heart away from
ARMOR	the Lord.
Of a soldier	
10 17 17 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	2 Chr 12:1Rehoboam abandoned the Lord,
1 Sm 17:4-7helmet, a two-hundred-pound coat of mail,	

1 Sm 17:38-39.. Saul gave David his own armor 1 Sm 31:9...... stripped off his armor

2 Sm 21:16sporting a new suit of armor,

1 Kgs 22:34between the joints of his armor.

Mt 26:70.....But Peter denied it loudly.

Jn 6:66.....his disciples turned away

2 Cor 12:20will find you quarreling,

1 Tm 1:19......they lost their faith in Christ