

With prayers and encouragement from Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth



Dear friend and fellow Bible reader,

It proved to be one of the most meaningful gifts I've ever received. A friend sent me a copy of the newly-released CSB (Christian Standard Bible) Notetaking Bible. I already owned scores of other Bibles in multiple translations, many of which I had read from cover to cover over the years. But I had no idea how precious this particular Bible would become to me.

For starters, I wanted to become familiar with the Christian Standard Bible, thinking that after one read-through, I would return to the translation I had relied on for a dozen years or more. In the process, I grew to appreciate the accessibility and clarity of the CSB and eventually decided to continue using it as my primary go-to Bible for study and teaching.

Beginning the Journey

On January 1, 2018, I opened my new Bible to Genesis 1, ready to start reading from beginning to end, as I have often done at the beginning to end of a new year. This time, however, I set out to journal my reflections on the Scriptures, one chapter, one page after another.

For as long as I can remember, I've made notes while reading my Bible; a shelf in my library is filled with well-worn journals and notebooks containing those entries. But I had never journaled through the entire Bible, and I had not written extensive notes in the actual pages of a Bible, given the limited space available. In fact, for some years, I'd captured most of my notes and reflections about Scripture on my laptop or phone, rather than on paper. (Does anyone write anything by hand anymore?) But now, holding a Bible intentionally designed for the reader to write notes next to the sacred text, I determined to strike out and try something new.

As a longtime student of the Bible and frequent notetaker, you might think I simply put pen to paper and began to write. But with the first chapter of Genesis before me, next to line after line after line of blank space ready to be filled with my most godward thoughts, I'll admit to being a bit intimidated. Staring at the fresh, unmarked page, I remember thinking, How do I go about this? What should I write?

Unlike other writing I've done as an author, I didn't go into it thinking anyone would ever read the words I was setting down. I wasn't concerned about fleshing out every idea or producing well-crafted sentences. My objective was simply to spend time with the Lord in His Word, to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Pet. 3:18), and to become more like Him by beholding Him (see 2 Cor. 3:18).

And so, my adventure began.

Searching for Treasure

As I inclined my ear and heart to the Lord, reading one passage after another, and asking Him to speak to me through the text, familiar rhythms began to develop. I lingered in each chapter, the eyes of my heart wide open, seeking to understand and digest what I was reading. I found joy in grappling with the meaning and significance of even those passages that are the most difficult to understand.

Trusting the Spirit to illuminate the Scriptures to me, I then recorded responses from my heart to His—wonder and worship, praise and gratitude, affection and aspiration, agreement and submission, confession and repentance, "Yes, Lord" and "O Lord."

Those countless hours spent poring over God's Word, pen in hand, asking Him to help me make sense of what I was reading, letting Him mold my heart to His—this became my "happy place." Again and again, I emerged from that place more in love with Him, longing to serve Him and others well, and eager to share what I was learning and experiencing.

I'd started out seeking for treasure, and-wow-I had found it!

Almost exactly five years (and some 700,000 handwritten words) later, on January 12, 2023, every page of my now-nearly-tattered Notetaking Bible filled, I came to the final verse: "The grace of the Lord Jesus be with everyone. Amen." (Rev. 22:21). Here are my concluding words:

This closing verse of the New Testament is heaven's answer to the curse

found in the last verse of the Old Testament (Mal. 4:6). The grace of God has come to earth in the person of Christ—bringing salvation for all who repent and believe, overcoming sin's dreadful curse. How great is our God. We worship You. May we walk in that grace through every step of our pilgrimage on this planet until we see You. Amen and Amen.

Your Invitation

What an amazing journey this was for me—and still is today, as I continue to steep in God's Word, line upon line, day after day. So rich. Encouraging. Practical. Life-giving and life-transforming.

But here's what I want you to know: This journey, this happy place, is not just for Bible teachers, authors, or lifelong students of God's Word. Wherever you may be in your spiritual pilgrimage, *it is available for you*. And it is my sincere hope that the Bible you hold in your hands will lead you to take the next step yourself, knowing it will become a means of fresh growth in your walk with Christ, the living Word.

Scripture-Based Prayers

Interspersed through the pages of this Bible, you'll find over 150 written prayers that were birthed out of my personal meditation on various passages. I hope you'll make those prayers your prayers. Even more, I hope you'll use some of the journaling space to compose new prayers from your own heart. As you do, you'll be drawn into deeper communion with the Lord as you allow Him to knit your will more completely with His Word.

Leaving a Legacy

It is also my hope that this Bible will become a legacy gift that you can one day pass on to someone else: a child or grandchild or perhaps a younger friend that you've mentored or discipled. As you meditate on the Word, you may even want to highlight certain verses and write prayers personalized for the person you anticipate someday owning this Bible.

This record of this season of your journey with the Lord will no doubt become a treasured possession and will inspire someone else to know and love His Word as you have done.

Reviving the Heart

When I first began journaling through the Bible at the outset of 2018, I had no idea what would transpire—in our world and in my life—over the next five years, before I got to Revelation 22.

During that time, our world was rocked by the COVID pandemic and my precious husband walked through two unrelated cancers. Two radically different American Presidents occupied the White House, and the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a number of landmark rulings that drastically altered the cultural landscape in this country. The United States was battered with record-breaking inflation, off-the-chart crime, racial tensions, incivility, anger, depression, fear—you name it.

But through it all, the Word of God provided an unchanging bedrock for my heart. Every hour spent soaking in this Book was steadying, stabilizing, strengthening, and sustaining to my soul. Time and again, my weary, flagging heart was revived. I believe you will discover the same to be true as you journey (and journal) through His Word.

My Prayer for You

After I finished journaling through the CSB Notetaking Bible, I gave a young friend a copy of her own for her twelfth birthday. Here's part of what I wrote to this sweet girl in a letter accompanying the Bible:

God promises a blessing to those who read His Word (Rev. 1:3). As you read, ask God to give you understanding. Ask Him to reveal Himself, His heart, and His ways to you. He will do just that!

I hope you will use this special edition of the Bible to write (or draw) things that stand out to you as you read—for example, observations about the passage, key thoughts or words from each chapter, a summary of each chapter, things you learn, things you want to be sure to remember, prayers, praise....

I pray this Bible will be a record of your journey with the Lord over these next years. (I still have Bibles I used when I was your age. It is a joy to look back over them all these years later.) I look forward to seeing how God continues to work in and through your life as you seek Him in His Word.

And I desire the same for you. My prayer is that the divinely-inspired words on each page of this Bible would become inscribed in your heart, that they would change you and make you more like Jesus, and that the resulting fruit and fragrance in your life would draw those around you to Him.

There truly is nothing more satisfying than sitting before the Lord with an open Bible and a searching heart, studying His ways, savoring His beauty, being sanctified by His Spirit, and then sharing His transforming Word and grace with others.

May God bless you as you read (and as you write!).

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Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

July 2025

Tips for Bible Journaling

I'm eager for you to experience the joy of journaling as you read the Word of God. But first, it's worth asking: Is it really worth the time and effort to do Bible journaling?

A Case for Writing as You Read Scripture

There are numerous examples in the Bible of people writing down God's words and laws. For example, God commanded Moses to preserve His covenant and His instructions in writing (Exod. 24:4; 34:27). Then, following Moses's example, Joshua wrote out God's law, to encourage future generations to follow Him (Josh. 24:26). Further, the kings of Israel were instructed to write out a personal copy of God's law and read it daily, as a constant reminder to fear the Lord and to lead others in accordance with His will (Deut. 17:18–19).

The psalms, also, are essentially written reflections on the character, works, and ways of God, as well as responses of worship, thanksgiving, lament, confession, aspiration, and devotion.

The New Testament then affirms that the Old Testament Scriptures were written for our instruction and encouragement.

While you and I can't claim divine inspiration for our own writing, the words we record about His Word can deepen our own relationship with the Lord and bless and build others up in their faith.

Writing ("journaling") as you read God's Word can help you to:

- meditate more meaningfully on Scripture;
- remember God's works;
- reflect on His character;
- rehearse and affirm His promises;
- grow in your understanding of what the Bible says and means;
- grapple with passages that are hard to understand;
- process your responses to the Lord and His Word;
- ingrain God's truth more deeply into your mind;
- concentrate on what you're reading; control runaway thoughts;
- connect the dots between God's truth and your life;
- counsel your heart according to His Word when you are discouraged or confused;
- apply Scripture to your life in concrete ways;
- commit to obeying what He has shown you in His Word;
- cultivate your prayer life;
- express worship, gratitude, surrender, and devotion to the Lord;
- capture insights to share with others for their encouragement and growth;
- remind you of what He has shown you in His Word and how He has dealt with you in the past; and
- leave a record for future generations of God's dealings in your life.

Many people, when I've expressed my excitement about Bible journaling, have expressed interest in trying it themselves and have asked for suggestions for getting started. You may be holding this Bible and wondering what to write on all those lines. The truth is, there's really no "right way" to do this.

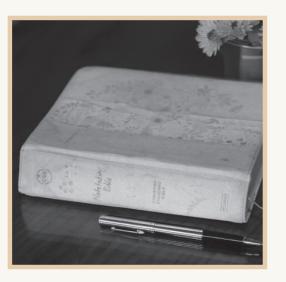
I'll share a few thoughts that I trust will be helpful to you. But mostly I want to encourage you to just dive in and give it a try! I grew more comfortable with it myself as I got into Bible journaling and developed a better sense of what I was looking for and wanted to write. You will, too. For sure, it's a journey you won't regret.

Getting Started

Look up to the Lord. Before you start to read, ask the Lord for His help. Ask the Spirit to give you understanding, wisdom, and insight (Col. 1:9–11). Commit that your response to whatever He shows you in His Word will be "Yes, Lord." You may want to use something like these verses that I've prayed many times over the years before beginning to read the Word:

Make your ways known to me, LORD; teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; I wait for you all day long. ... Open my eyes so that I may contemplate wondrous things from your instruction. -PSALMS 25:4-5; 119:18

Look into the Word. Before you start to write, read Scripture. Read prayerfully, thoughtfully, humbly, and expectantly. I'd also recommend that you read consecutively as a rule—at least through individual books of the Bible, if not larger sections or the entire Bible. After all, the sixty-six "books" of the Bible are really "chapters" in the one big Book of the Bible.



At times, you may want to move at a slow pace, putting smaller portions under a microscope. In other seasons, you may want to move more rapidly through Scripture, in order to get an overall view of the redemptive story.

Think of it as the difference between taking a helicopter ride (traveling fast and taking in the view from above) and taking a hike (slowing down and stopping to look at the details of flowers, plants, and trees).

The reading plan beginning on page ____ of this Bible will take you from Genesis through Revelation in a year (which many would consider a helicopter trip). You won't have time to stop and smell every flower along the way. But you'll be awed by the view from above. And you'll want to come back another time and take in the scenery more slowly.

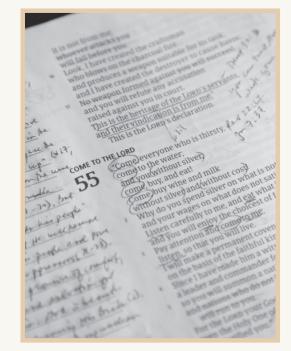
Bible journaling can be done from either the "high (helicopter) view" or the "hiker's view."

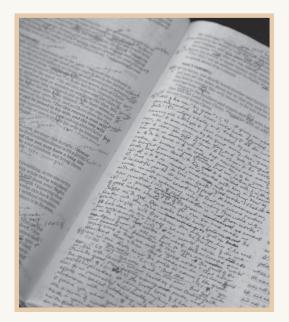
You may not be able to write as much on every page if you're on the helicopter ride. And that's okay. But at times, you'll want to lace up your hiking boots and meditate on parts of Scripture more slowly and deeply. Both types of reading and meditation have brought me great joy and been deeply rewarding.

General suggestions

If the idea of putting your thoughts in writing seems daunting to you, the most difficult part of Bible journaling may be just putting a pen to a page and beginning. But you can do this. Here are a few reminders you may find helpful:

- You don't have to go straight through from Genesis to Revelation. You may want to pick a shorter book of the Bible and start there.
- You don't have to write something on every line. The goal is not to fill all the empty space, but to let God fill your mind and heart with His Word.
- Don't be in a hurry. There's no deadline.
- Don't worry about polishing what you write this is not intended to be published; the goal is to get to know God and to let His Word shape and change your life.
- Don't try to implement all of these ideas at once. They are just intended to help prime the pump.
- Each time you pick up your pen to begin journaling again, jot down the date (and perhaps your location, if you're away from home). Down the road, you'll enjoy looking back at this diary of God's faithfulness.





What to Write? Keep It Simple

Have I mentioned that there's no "right way" to do this? If you're new to Bible journaling (even if you're not), you may want to start by using one or more of these approaches:

COPY SCRIPTURE

Write out a key verse that seems to summarize the passage you've just read, or a verse or paragraph that caught your attention and that you want to consider more carefully. This exercise will help you slow down, ponder what you've read, and press it more deeply into your heart. *Oh, the depth of the riches and the wisdom and the knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments and untraceable his ways! Romans 11:33

O Lord, how astonishing and ravishing are Your ways, Your love, Your grace, Your mercy, Your kindness, Your holiness. And how unspeakably marvelous is the plan You have made from before the creation of the world, to save sinful, fallen, hell-deserving sinners. I bow before You; I worship You; I am overcome by Your mercy, now and for all eternity. Amen.

WRITE YOUR PRAYERS

This is a wonderful way to meditate on the meaning of what you're reading (as I've done at points throughout this edition of the *CSB Notetaking Bible*). Almost any verse, paragraph, or chapter of the Bible can be turned into a prayer.

- Pray back to God something from the passage you've read. Affirm that you believe His Word is true.
- Thank Him for what you've read about His character, His heart, His ways, His promises.
- Confess an area of unbelief or disobedience He has shown you.
- Write a prayer for a family member, friend, colleague, or spiritual leader, based on what you've read.

USE THE "S-A METHOD," as it is sometimes called ("S" standing for "summary," "A" for "application"). I've even encouraged a number of tweens and teens to read through the Bible using this approach.

Here's how it works: **Read a chapter, then write one or two sentences that summarize the chapter you've just read.** This doesn't need to be detailed or complicated. Just answer the question, "What is this chapter about?" Summarize it in your own words. That's "S," the summary.

Next, for "A," the application, write one or two sentences expressing how something in this chapter can be applied to your life. Answer the questions, "How did this chapter speak to you personally?" "What did it mean to you?" "What does God want you to do about what you've just read?"

When you're done, you'll have a simple chapter-by-chapter overview of the whole Bible—a record of how you got into the Word, and how the Word is getting into you.

Genesis 8

S: Having experienced God's personal protection from the power of His wrath and judgment, Noah built an altar to the Lord—an expression of worship and gratitude.

A: We will never fully appreciate all that God's salvation means for us until we first feel the weight of the judgment we deserve for our sin. Then we will respond in wonder and worship for the undeserved favor and grace He has lavished on us.

Going Deeper

A required course when I was a freshman in Bible college gave me a basic framework for studying Scripture; it has been helpful in my Bible study every since. As I read and meditate, I keep these three key components in mind: 1) Observation, 2) Interpretation, 3) Application.

Here are some of the kinds of things I attempt to capture in my journaling. Use whichever ones you find most helpful as you meditate on Scripture. (These will vary somewhat, depending on which biblical genre you're reading—law, history, narrative, wisdom, poetry, prophecy, gospel, epistles, or apocalyptic.)

What does the passage say? (Observation)

- How would you title the chapter or passage?
- How would you outline it?
- Is there a key verse that captures the essence of the passage? A key theme? A key word?
- Summarize what you've read. (I do a lot of this in my Bible journaling. It helps me grasp what the passage is about.)
- Paraphrase it in your own words.
- Be inquisitive; ask questions about the text. Who wrote it? Why? Who is speaking? To whom? Who are the main characters? What are the major events? When and where did they take place? What happened before and after?
- Note repeated words or phrases. This will help you identify the emphasis or key themes of the passage.
- Try to define key words. Use a dictionary or Bible dictionary if needed.
- What does the passage teach about the key theme?
- What other Bible verses (cross references) address a similar topic or point? (Check out the Topical Concordance at the back of this Bible. You'll find space to add verses you discover about those topics.)
- Are there things you had not known or realized before? Things you want to be sure to remember?
- Jot down questions you have about the passage, things that don't make sense to you or that you'd like to understand better. You may want to come back to them later, as you read and meditate on other parts of Scripture that shed light on the matter you found perplexing.

What does it mean? (Interpretation)

- What did the author want his original readers to understand?
- How does this passage fit into the big picture of the Bible: creation, fall, redemption, restoration?
- What does it teach you about God? About humans? Yourself? Sin? Holiness? Christ? The gospel? The Christian life? God's ways? His redemptive plan? Trials and suffering? The church? The end times? Other topics?
- Are there particular insights that stand out to you? Key takeaways?

What should I do? (Application)

- Are there any promises to trust? Commands to obey? Warnings to heed? Examples to follow (or avoid)?
- Record your response to the text. As I often say, "Make it personal." This could include:
 - praise or gratitude for something you've read;
 - a sinful attitude or action you need to confess;
 - a step of obedience you need to take;
 - someone you need to forgive;
 - a promise you're reminded to believe;
 - someone you could encourage;
 - a truth you want to share with someone else; or
 - a prayer for protection from temptation.

Sometimes I will write out a hymn stanza or chorus that relates to what I've read. Occasionally I'll even compose some simple poetry to express my heart. The Spirit will direct your response if you ask Him.

Snapshots from My Journaling Journey

As I spent those five years journaling my way through the Bible, I periodically posted on social media, hoping to inspire others to join me in meditating on Scripture and recording their own insights and prayers. These posts included reports on my progress, as well as snippets from what I had written in the pages of my Bible.

For your encouragement, here's a sampling of what I shared along the way. I pray these glimpses will fuel fresh wonder in your heart and make you long to go deeper into His heart through His Word. Your journey will look different from mine. But it will be no less rich, sweet, and life-changing. I can promise you that.

JANUARY 3, 2018

New year. New Bible. New joys. @ChristianStandardBible #NotetakingBible

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JANUARY 5, 2018

Reflection on Jacob's encounter with the Lord at Bethel (Gen. 28:10–22): Each generation of believers needs its own encounters with God. Please, Lord, make Yourself known to our grandchildren and to the children of our friends and fellow servants, to the young men we pray for every night. Thank You for making Yourself known to my parents and then to me!

March 13, 2018

Meditating on the life of Caleb in Joshua 22: (v. 11) O Lord, give me "strength for battle and for daily tasks," as You did for Caleb. And give me grace to follow You completely and serve You wholeheartedly all the way to the finish line.

AUGUST 8, 2018

Loving my @christianstandardbible #NotetakingBible. "The Bible is alive, it speaks to me. It has feet; it runs after me. It has hands; it lays hold of me." (Martin Luther) Amen.

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October 12, 2018

Am loving journaling through the Bible. Can't recommend it highly enough. So helpful for meditation, marinating in the Word.

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JANUARY 1, 2019

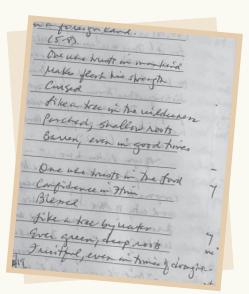
New year. New day. New chapter. New page. New mercies. "Don't abandon wisdom, and she will watch over you; love her, and she will guard you" (Prov. 4:6).

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MAY 30, 2019

One who trusts in mankind Makes flesh his strength Cursed Like a tree in the wilderness Parched; shallow roots Barren, even in good times

One who trusts in the Lord Confidence in Him Blessed Like a tree by water Evergreen; deep roots Fruitful, even in times of drought



(Jeremiah 17:5–8)

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JANUARY 2, 2020

Two years ago (1/1/18) I began using a journaling Bible. I started in Genesis 1. Today I finished the Old Testament. What an incredible journey this has been. Nothing has brought me greater joy, and there is nothing I look forward to more than time spent marinating in His Word. It is my daily Bread, my Life, health, strength, and wisdom, my heart's anchor and delight.

A short summary:

- Genesis 1–2—God created and blessed man/woman.
- Genesis 3:1–Malachi 4:6—man rebelled against God and His law;
 God cursed the earth. We are all under His righteous judgment,
 unable to keep His law, even if we wanted to, which we don't.

Tomorrow morning I will open this Book again and start with Matthew 1:1—"the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham...." Good News! Amazing news! Jesus ... the One who will fulfill God's promise to redeem this fallen earth and make all things new. Hallelujah. What a Savior. Praise His holy Name.

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NOVEMBER 28, 2020

After spending the last eleven months in the gospels, today I finished the gospel of John. More than the stretching realities of COVID, social and political unrest, and my sweet husband's two bouts with cancer, for me, 2020 has been about living in the riches of His Word, being ravished with the beauty, compassion, power, and grace of Jesus.

His birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension; His miracles and His teaching—the vision has been stunning and life-giving, even in the midst of the uncertainty and chaos all around.

He is the Way, Bread, Water, Life, the Good Shepherd, the Truth. He is all, everything, to be worshiped, revered, trusted, and loved. And what a precious treasure is His Word. I have no idea what 2021 may hold. But day after day, come what may, I will continue to drink deeply from this amazing well—beginning tomorrow in the book of Acts, and all the way to the final triumph of the Lamb in the Revelation. I can hardly wait.

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DECEMBER 26, 2020

Herod Earthly King Human power

Attacked the church Executed James Imprisoned Peter

Church praying King Jesus Heavenly power

Angel of the Lord Released Peter Struck Herod dead

Satan assaults the saints The saints will prevail Satan will be defeated

Heaven rules

(Acts 12)

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DECEMBER 29, 2020

Disciples sent Word preached Jesus proclaimed Forgiveness offered Many believed Others opposed Disciples persecuted Word spread Preaching continued Disciples joy-filled Church grew

(Acts 13)

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JANUARY 29, 2021

Slowly journaling my way through Acts in my @ChristianStandardBible. There is no greater joy than sitting in His presence, soaking in His Word, savoring His beauty, being sanctified by His Spirit, and then sharing His transforming Word and grace with others. #happyplace

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FEBRUARY 22, 2021

Began journaling through the Book of Acts on 11/29/20. Finished chapter 28 today. What a rich, amazing journey this has been. My final paragraph: "Acts calls us to believe God for the spread of the gospel and His Kingdom in our world, to be a praying people, filled with the Spirit, to be bold in the face of certain opposition, to be light in the darkness, faithfully serving and proclaiming Jesus to anyone/everyone/everywhere, by every possible means. We are not to settle into our comfortable, Christian conclaves, but to take the gospel to our world, at whatever cost or risk, as Christ builds His church."

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April 18, 2021

Have spent a rich ten days in Romans 12. This is what it looks like to live in light of Romans 1–11, to live "in view of the mercies of God" (12:1). His mercies toward us are radically transformational. They change everything about us. They call for our wholehearted worship, the full consecration of our whole selves to Him, and the renewing of our minds to think as He thinks and to discern and choose what is good and what is pleasing to Him.

Living in view of the mercies of God has implications for every aspect of our lives. It grounds our lives in love, which affects how we treat each other and how we respond to those who oppose us and the gospel.

Everything about this mercy-infused lifestyle is the polar opposite of what is natural to unredeemed sinners. This way of living is authentic, humble, selfless, generous, robust, vibrant, full-throated, vigorous, tender, persevering, joyful, and strong. It cannot be conquered by evil, but it overcomes evil as His mercies and goodness flow out through us.

This is His vision for our marriages, homes, churches, neighborhoods, workplaces, and culture. This is what it means to be the chosen people of God. This is what our world desperately needs today.

April 26, 2021

Two months to the day from when I started journaling in Romans, I have come to the end of this magnificent treatise on the gospel. My heart is full and grateful. Here's what I journaled today on Romans 16:16, at the end of vv 3–15, in which Paul sent personal, affirming, warm-hearted greetings to twenty-eight (!) individuals in Rome—a city he had not (yet) visited:

Paul sent not only personal greetings to the believers in Rome, but also greetings from "all the churches of Christ" (16:16). What a lovely picture this is of the universal Church of Christ, in its local expressions, knit together in love, all parts contributing to the whole, and together glorifying the Lord of the church, Christ Jesus.

This verse has both an individual component—"Greet one another with a holy kiss," as well as a corporate—"All the churches of Christ send you greetings." We need both—an awareness of and devotion to those believers who are close at hand, with whom we worship, walk, and serve, as well as a consciousness of, connection to, and delight in the broader body of Christ. We are related to both, through our union with Christ, who has welcomed and received us, and who showers us with His love.

"To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ—to him be the glory forever! Amen." (Romans 16:27)

Tomorrow: 1 Corinthians 1:1. Can hardly wait.

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JANUARY 10, 2022

Starting year five of journaling through the Bible. Started in Genesis, spent two years in the Old Testament. Spent the next two years in the New Testament. Hope to finish the NT over the next several months. Am not hurrying through. Much of the time it has been slow, hard work. But also incredibly rewarding. Day after day, week after week, year after year. Seeking His face. Hearing His heart.

This is the place where I am most happy, most safe, most at rest. This is where I repent and where I rejoice. This is where I find help and hope for living in a broken world. This is where I am changed from the inside out. This is where I meet the One whose I am and whom I serve. This is where He fills my heart and mouth with good things to share with other needy pilgrims.

If you call out to insight and lift your voice to understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it like hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and discover the knowledge of God. (Proverbs 2:3–4)

@christianstandardbible #NotetakingBible #mosttreasuredpossession

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April 26, 2022

Meditating on Hebrews 11 in this four-plus-year journey, journaling through the Bible. Twenty-two times in this chapter we read: "By faith" When the story of our lives is told, how will this sentence be completed: "By faith, she/he ..."? What did we do, how did we respond, in ways that would make no sense and would not be possible, if it were not for our acting in obedience to God, "by faith" in His promises and His Word? Or will the sum total of our lives be seen in what we were able to do on our own, apart from His grace and power? #JournalthroughtheBible

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April 27, 2022

Just finished journaling Hebrews 11. Forty-five chapters left! Hoping to finish by August. "Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts" (Jer. 15:16).

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JULY 7, 2022

Journaling in 1 John this week. I am still loving this journey I began on January 1, 2018. Through all the ups and downs and changes of the past four and a half years, the Word of God has been an unchanging bedrock for my heart. Every hour spent soaking in this Book has been steadying, stabilizing, strengthening, and sustaining to my soul. "How sweet your word is to my taste—sweeter than honey in my mouth" (Ps. 119:103).

AUGUST 1, 2022

Spent the last ten days journaling in the Book of Jude. Sooo rich. Next up ... Revelation. Can't wait!

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DECEMBER 16, 2022

Revelation 13: The power and persecution of the great dragon and the beasts that do his bidding on the earth. Revelation 14: "Then I looked, and there was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion" He comes to earth to redeem His saints and to judge the dragon and all the wicked forever. Hallelujah. Amen.

DECEMBER 17, 2022

Meditating on and journaling through Revelation 13–14 this past week has been such a rich experience. The lines are being clearly drawn between the dragon and the Lamb; between those who worship the beast and those who worship and fear God; between the judgment of the wicked and the salvation of those who believe and obey the gospel; between eternal punishment in the fire of God's wrath and eternal joys in the presence of God and His holy angels.

Thanks and glory be to the Lamb who has rescued us from the wrath of God, having endured the full cup of that wrath poured out on Himself. He has also delivered us from the deception and destruction of the devil and his representatives. While we do not relish the idea of divine judgment, those who worship and reverence God will rejoice to see Him glorified in that day when His judgment falls on the earth.

Next up, Revelation 15. Just eight chapters left (of 1289) in this five-year journey journaling through the Bible. My heart is full. How wondrous are His Word, His works, and His ways.

DECEMBER 24, 2022

Well ... the cover of my beloved journaling Bible finally came completely off today. It's not that the Bible isn't well made (it is!), but because it's been well used.

Next Sunday, January 1, will mark five years since I started journaling in Genesis 1:1. Just seven chapters to go!

Meditating today on Revelation 16 and the final outpouring of God's wrath on this prodigal earth. Three times this chapter makes the point that in the face of these judgments, people will rail against ("blaspheme") God "because of their pains" and the severity of the plagues He sends. They will refuse to "repent and give him the glory" (see vv. 9, 11, 21).

"A person's own foolishness leads him astray, yet his heart rages against the LORD" (Prov. 19:3). When people experience the consequences of their perverseness and rebellion, their tendency is to lash out in anger against God. Suffering and pain that result from our sin are actually a mercy—a God-given invitation to humble ourselves and turn to Him for mercy and deliverance.

The day will come when there will be no more such opportunity. Do not turn away from Christ in your pain. Turn to Him now; repent, give Him glory, and be saved. This is why He came to earth.

May this truly be a merry, merry Christmas for all who believe, as we await that day of eternal, unending joy.

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JANUARY 1, 2023

Happey New Year! Five years ago today, I started meditating and journaling through the Bible in Genesis 1. Now there are just three chapters left! Today I've been in Revelation 20, muddling my way through the mysteries of the millennium. There is much that is unclear and hard to figure out. But here's what is clear: Satan has no power beyond what God permits. Heaven rules. Jesus is King. The followers of Christ, though they may be persecuted and even slain, are blessed and will reign with Him on the earth. Talk about a #turnover! (#footballseason!)

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JANUARY 12, 2023

Today marks the end of a five-year journey journaling on every chapter from Genesis through Revelation. Roughly 700,000 handwritten words about His Word. Unspeakable blessing and joy. My heart is full.

In the coming days, I'll reflect further on what this experience has meant to me. But for tonight I leave you with these words:

- The promise of the Bridegroom: "Look, I am *coming* soon"! (Rev. 22:7, 12)
- + The cry of the Spirit and the bride: "Come!" (v. 17)
- The Spirit's invitation: "Let the one who is thirsty *come* take the water of life freely." (v. 17)
- + The repeated assurance of our Savior: "Yes, I am coming soon." (v. 20)
- + The heart cry of the churches: "Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!" (v. 20)

Let not your heart be afraid. Let this be the hope to which you cling as you live each day and take each step on this treacherous planet. Child of God, your Redeemer is near.

"The grace of the Lord Jesus be with everyone. Amen." (Rev. 22:21)

Reading Calendar

Janua	ry	Febru	ıary	Μ	arc	h	Aj	pril	
□ 1	Genesis 1-3	□ 1	Leviticus 17-20		1	Deteronomy 29-30		1	2 Samuel 4-6
□ 2	Genesis 4-7	□ 2	Leviticus 21-23		2	Deteronomy 31-32		2	2 Samuel 7-10
□ 3	Genesis 8-11	□ 3	Leviticus 24-27		3	Deteronomy 33-34		3	2 Samuel 11-13
□ 4	Genesis 12-15	□ 4	Numbers 1-2		4	Joshua 1-4		4	2 Samuel 14-15
□ 5	Genesis 16-18	□ 5	Numbers 3-4		5	Joshua 5-7		5	2 Samuel 16-17
6	Genesis 19-22	□ 6	Numbers 5-6		6	Joshua 8-10		6	2 Samuel 18-20
□ 7	Genesis 23-27	□ 7	Numbers 7-8		7	Joshua 11-14		7	2 Samuel 21-22
□ 8	Genesis 28-30	□ 8	Numbers 9-10		8	Joshua 15-17		8	2 Samuel 23-24
09	Genesis 31-34	09	Numbers 11-13		9	Joshua 18-21		9	1 Kings 1-2
□ 10	Genesis 35-38	□ 10	Numbers 14-15		10	Joshua 22-24		10	1 Kings 3-5
0 11	Genesis 39-41	0 11	Numbers 16-17		11	Judges 1-3		11	1 Kings 6-7
□ 12	Genesis 42-44	□ 12	Numbers 18-19		12	Judges 4-6		12	1 Kings 8-9
□ 13	Genesis 45-47	□ 13	Numbers 20-21		13	Judges 7-9		13	1 Kings 10-12
□ 14	Genesis 48-50	□ 14	Numbers 22-23		14	Judges 10-12		14	1 Kings 13-15
□ 15	Exodus 1-4	□ 15	Numbers 24-26		15	Judges 13-15		15	1 Kings 16-18
□ 16	Exodus 5-7	□ 16	Numbers 27-29		16	Judges 16-18		16	1 Kings 19-20
□ 17	Exodus 8-11	□ 17	Numbers 30-32		17	Judges 19-21		17	1 Kings 21-22
□ 18	Exodus 12-14	□ 18	Numbers 33-36		18	Ruth 1-4		18	2 Kings 1-3
□ 19	Exodus 15-18	□ 19	Deteronomy 1-2		19	1 Samuel 1-3		19	2 Kings 4-6
□ 20	Exodus 19-21	□ 20	Deteronomy 3-4		20	1 Samuel 4-6		20	2 Kings 7-8
□ 21	Exodus 22-24	□ 21	Deteronomy 5-7		21	1 Samuel 7-9		21	2 Kings 9-11
□ 22	Exodus 25-28	□ 22	Deteronomy 8-10		22	1 Samuel 10-12		22	2 Kings 12-14
□ 23	Exodus 29-31	□ 23	Deteronomy 11-13		23	1 Samuel 13-14		23	2 Kings 15-17
□ 24	Exodus 32-34	□ 24	Deteronomy 14-16		24	1 Samuel 15-16		24	2 Kings 18-19
□ 25	Exodus 35-37	□ 25	Deteronomy 17-20		25	1 Samuel 17-18		25	2 Kings 20-22
□ 26	Exodus 38-40	□ 26	Deteronomy 21-23		26	1 Samuel 19-20		26	2 Kings 23-25
□ 27	Leviticus 1-3	□ 27	Deteronomy 24-26		27	1 Samuel 21-23		27	1 Chronicles 1-2
□ 28	Leviticus 4-6	□ 28	Deteronomy 27-28		28	1 Samuel 24-26		28	1 Chronicles 3-5
□ 29	Leviticus 7-9				29	1 Samuel 27-29		29	1 Chronicles 6-7
□ 30	Leviticus 10-13				30	1 Samuel 30-31		30	1 Chronicles 8-10
□ 31	Leviticus 14-16				31	2 Samuel 1-3			

READING CALENDAR

May	June	July	August
□ 1 1 Chronicles 11-13	□ 1 Job 13-16	□ 1 Psalms 143-150	🗆 1 Isaiah 61-63
□ 2 1 Chronicles 14-16	□ 2 Job 17-20	□ 2 Proverbs 1-3	□ 2 Isaiah 64-66
□ 3 1 Chronicles 17-19	□ 3 Job 21-24	□ 3 Proverbs 4-7	□ 3 Jeremiah 1-3
□ 4 1 Chronicles 20-22	□ 4 Job 25-30	□ 4 Proverbs 8-11	□ 4 Jeremiah 4-6
□ 5 1 Chronicles 23-25	□ 5 Job 31-34	□ 5 Proverbs 12-15	5 Jeremiah 7-9
□ 6 1 Chronicles 26-27	□ 6 Job 35-38	□ 6 Proverbs 16-18	□ 6 Jeremiah 10-12
□ 7 1 Chronicles 28-29	□ 7 Job 39-42	□ 7 Proverbs 19-21	□ 7 Jeremiah 13-15
□ 8 2 Chronicles 1-4	□ 8 Psalms 1-8	□ 8 Proverbs 22-24	□ 8 Jeremiah 16-19
9 2 Chronicles 5-7	□ 9 Psalms 9-17	□ 9 Proverbs 25-28	9 Jeremiah 20-22
□ 10 2 Chronicles 8-10	□ 10 Psalms 18-21	□ 10 Proverbs 29-31	□ 10 Jeremiah 23-25
□ 11 2 Chronicles 11-14	□ 11 Psalms 22-28	□ 11 Ecclesiastes 1-4	□ 11 Jeremiah 26-29
□ 12 2 Chronicles 15-18	□ 12 Psalms 29-34	□ 12 Ecclesiastes 5-8	🗆 12 Jeremiah 30-31
□ 13 2 Chronicles 19-21	□ 13 Psalms 35-39	□ 13 Ecclesiastes 9-12	🗆 13 Jeremiah 32-34
□ 14 2 Chronicles 22-25	□ 14 Psalms 40-44	□ 14 Song of Songs 1-4	🗆 14 Jeremiah 35-37
□ 15 2 Chronicles 26-28	□ 15 Psalms 45-50	□ 15 Song of Songs 5-8	🗆 15 Jeremiah 38-40
□ 16 2 Chronicles 29-31	□ 16 Psalms 51-56	🗆 16 Isaiah 1-4	🗆 16 Jeremiah 41-44
□ 17 2 Chronicles 32-33	□ 17 Psalms 57-63	🗆 17 Isaiah 5-8	□ 17 Jeremiah 45-48
□ 18 2 Chronicles 34-36	□ 18 Psalms 64-69	🗆 18 Isaiah 9-12	🗆 18 Jeremiah 49-50
🗆 19 Ezra 1-4	□ 19 Psalms 70-74	🗆 19 Isaiah 13-15	□ 19 Jeremiah 51-52
□ 20 Ezra 5-7	□ 20 Psalms 75-78	□ 20 Isaiah 16-20	□ 20 Lamentations 1-2
□ 21 Ezra 8-10	□ 21 Psalms 79-85	□ 21 Isaiah 21-24	□ 21 Lamentations 3-5
🗆 22 Nehemiah 1-3	□ 22 Psalms 86-90	□ 22 Isaiah 25-28	□ 22 Ezekiel 1-4
🗆 23 Nehemiah 4-7	□ 23 Psalms 91-98	🗆 23 Isaiah 29-32	□ 23 Ezekiel 5-8
□ 24 Nehemiah 8-10	□ 24 Psalms 99-104	🗆 24 Isaiah 33-36	□ 24 Ezekiel 9-12
□ 25 Nehemiah 11-13	□ 25 Psalms 105-107	□ 25 Isaiah 37-40	□ 25 Ezekiel 13-15
□ 26 Esther 1-3	□ 26 Psalms 108-113	□ 26 Isaiah 41-43	□ 26 Ezekiel 16-17
□ 27 Esther 4-7	□ 27 Psalms 114-118	□ 27 Isaiah 44-46	□ 27 Ezekiel 18-20
□ 28 Esther 8-10	□ 28 Psalms 119	🗆 28 Isaiah 47-49	□ 28 Ezekiel 21-23
□ 29 Job 1-4	□ 29 Psalms 120-134	□ 29 Isaiah 50-52	□ 29 Ezekiel 24-26
🗆 30 Job 5-8	□ 30 Psalms 135-142	🗆 30 Isaiah 53-56	□ 30 Ezekiel 27-29
□ 31 Job 9-12		□ 31 Isaiah 57-60	□ 31 Ezekiel 30-31

Septembe	r (Octob	oer	Nove	mber	Dee	cember
🗆 1 Ezeki	el 32-33 [1	Matthew 8-9	□ 1	John 4-5	□ 1	1 Corinthians 11-13
🗆 2 Ezeki	el 34-36	2	Matthew 10-11	□ 2	John 6-7	□ 2	2 1 Corinthians 14-16
🗆 3 Ezeki	el 37-39 [3	Matthew 12 12		John 8-9	□ 3	2 Corinthians 1-4
🗆 4 Ezeki	el 40-42	4	Matthew 14 16	\square 4	John 10-11	□ 4	2 Corinthians 5-9
🗆 5 Ezeki	el 43-45	5	Matthew 17 19	□ 5	John 12-13	□ 5	2 Corinthians 10-13
🗆 6 Ezeki	el 46-48 [6	Matthew 10.20		John 14-16	□ 6	Galatians 1-3
🗆 7 🛛 Danie	el 1-2 [] 7	Matthew 21 22		John 17-19	□ 7	Galatians 4-6
🗆 8 Danie	el 3-4 [8	Matthew 23-24		John 20-21	□ 8	B Ephesians 1-3
🗆 9 Danie	el 5-6 [9	Matthew 25-26	□ 9	Acts 1-3	09	P Ephesians 4-6
🗌 10 Danie	el 7-9 [10	Matthew 27-28	□ 10	Acts 4-5	□ 1	0 Philippians
🗆 11 Danie	el 10-12 [] 11	Mark 1-3	□ 11	Acts 6-7	□ 1	1 Colossians
🗆 12 Hosed	a 1-4 [12	Mark 4-5	□ 12	Acts 8-9	□ 1	2 1 Thessalonians
🗆 13 Hosed	a 5-9 [] 13	Mark 6-7	□ 13	Acts 10-11	□ 1	3 2 Thessalonians
🗆 14 Hosed	a 10-14 [14	Mark 8-9	□ 14	Acts 12-13	□ 1	4 1 Timothy
🗆 15 Joel	[] 15	Mark 10-11	□ 15	Acts 14-15	□ 1	5 2 Timothy
🗆 16 Amos	51-4 [16	Mark 12-13	□ 16	Acts 16-17	□ 1	6 Titus & Philemon
🗆 17 Amos	5-9 [] 17	Mark 14	□ 17	Acts 18-19	□ 1	7 Hebrews 1-4
🗆 18 Obac	diah and Jonah [18	Mark 15-16	□ 18	Acts 20-21	□ 1	8 Hebrews 5-8
🗆 19 Mical	h1-4 [] 19	Luke 1-2	□ 19	Acts 22-23	□ 1	9 Hebrews 9-10
🗆 20 Mical	h 5-7 [20	Luke 3-4	□ 20	Acts 24-26	□ 2	20 Hebrews 11-13
🗆 21 Nahu	ım [21	Luke 5-6	□ 21	Acts 27-28	□ 2	21 James
🗆 22 Haba	ikkuk [22	Luke 7-8	□ 22	Romans 1-3	□ 2	2 1 Peter
🗆 23 Zepho	aniah [23	Luke 9-10	□ 23	Romans 4-6	□ 2	23 2 Peter
🗆 24 Hagg	jai [24	Luke 11-12	□ 24	Romans 7-9	□ 2	24 1 John
🗆 25 Zecho	ariah 1-4 [25	Luke 13-14	□ 25	Romans 10-12	□ 2	25 2 John, 3 John
🗆 26 Zecho	ariah 5-9 [26	Luke 15-16	□ 26	Romans 13-14		& Jude
🗆 27 Zecho	ariah 10-14 [27	Luke 17-18	□ 27	Romans 15-16	□ 2	Revelation 1-3
🗆 28 Mala	chi [28	Luke 19-20	□ 28	1 Corinthians 1-4	□ 2	27 Revelation 4-8

□ 29 1 Corinthians 5-7

□ 30 1 Corinthians 8-10

□ 29 Luke 21-22 □ 30 Luke 23-24

□ 31 John 1-3

□ 29 Matthew 1-4

□ 30 Matthew 5-7

□ 29 Revelation 13-16 □ 30 Revelation 17-19 □ 31 Revelation 20-22

□ 28 Revelation 9-12

Genesis

The Creation

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. ³ Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." There was an evening, and there was a morning: one day.

⁶ Then God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters, separating water from water." ⁷ So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above the expanse. And it was so. ⁸ God called the expanse "sky." Evening came and then morning: the second day.

⁹ Then God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land "earth," and the gathering of the water he called "seas." And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, "Let the earth produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds." And it was so. ¹² The earth produced vegetation: seed-bearing plants according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ Evening came and then morning: the third day.

¹⁴Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night. They will serve as signs for seasons and for days and years. ¹⁵They will be lights in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule over the day and the lesser light to rule over the night — as well as the stars. ¹⁷God placed them in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth, ¹⁸ to rule the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹Evening came and then morning: the fourth day.

²⁰ Then God said, "Let the water swarm with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." ²¹ So God created the large sea-creatures and every living creature that moves and swarms in the water, according to their kinds. He also created every winged creature according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them: "Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the waters of the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth." ²³ Evening came and then morning: the fifth day.

²⁴ Then God said, "Let the earth produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that crawl, and the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. ²⁵ So God made the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that crawl on the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth."

- ²⁷ So God created man in his own image;
 - he created him in the image of God;
 - he created them male and female.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth." ²⁹ God also said, "Look, I have given you every seed-bearing plant on the surface of the entire earth and every tree whose fruit contains seed. This will be food for you, ³⁰ for all the wildlife of the earth, for every bird of the sky, and for every creature that crawls on the earth — every thing having the breath of life in it — I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good indeed. Evening came and then morning: the sixth day.

O Lord, as I read and meditate on Your Word, I long for the hovering, creating, ordering, illuminating work of Your Spirit in my heart. When You speak, may I respond with a wholehearted "Yes, Lord!" Do Your "good" work in and through my life—bringing flourishing, beauty, and growth. All for the glory and fame of Your name in this world. Amen.

Gen 1:1-28

• So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were complet-4 ed.² On the seventh day God had completed his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³ God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy for on it he rested from all his work of creation.

Man and Woman in the Garden

⁴These are the records of the heavens and the earth. concerning their creation. At the time that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵ no shrub of the field had yet grown on the land, and no plant of the field had vet sprouted, for the LORD God had not made it rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground. ⁶ But mist would come up from the earth and water all the ground. ⁷Then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being.

⁸ The LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he placed the man he had formed.⁹ The LORD God caused to grow out of the ground every tree pleasing in appearance and good for food, including the tree of life in the middle of the garden, as well as the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰ A river went out from Eden to water the garden. From there it divided and became the source of four rivers. "The name of the first is Pishon, which flows through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold, ¹² Gold from that land is pure; bdellium and onyx are also there.¹³ The name of the second river is Gihon, which flows through the entire land of Cush. ¹⁴The name of the third river is Tigris, which runs east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it.¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die." 18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper corresponding to him." ¹⁹ The LORD God formed out of the ground every wild animal and every bird of the sky, and brought each to the man to see what he would call it. And whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all the livestock, to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal; but for the man no helper was found corresponding to him.²¹So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to come over the man, and he slept. God took one of his ribs and closed the flesh at that place.²² Then the LORD God made the rib he had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man.²³ And the man said:

> This one, at last, is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh: this one will be called "woman." for she was taken from man.

²⁴ This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh. ²⁵ Both the man and his wife were naked, yet felt no shame.

The Temptation and the Fall

7 Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the J LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the garden'?"

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

⁴ "No! You will certainly not die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ The woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Sin's Consequences ⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.⁹ So the LORD God called out to the man and said to him. "Where are you?" ¹⁰ And he said, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid." ¹¹Then he asked, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" ¹² The man replied, "The woman you gave to be with me — she gave me some fruit from the tree. and I ate." ¹³ So the LORD God asked the woman, "What have you done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." ¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent: Because you have done this. you are cursed more than any livestock and more than any wild animal. You will move on your belly and eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵ I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel. ¹⁶ He said to the woman: I will intensify your labor pains; you will bear children with painful effort. Your desire will be for your husband, yet he will rule over you. ¹⁷ And he said to the man, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'Do not eat from it': The ground is cursed because of you. You will eat from it by means of painful labor all the days of your life. 18 It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. 19 You will eat bread by the sweat of your brow until you return to the ground. since you were taken from it. For you are dust, and you will return to dust." ²⁰The man named his wife Eve because she was the mother of all the living.²¹ The LORD God made clothing from skins for the man and his wife, and he clothed them. ²² The LORD God said, "Since the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil, he must not reach out, take from the tree of life, eat, and live forever." ²³ So the LORD God sent him away from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken.²⁴ He drove the man out and stationed the cherubim and the flaming, whirling sword east of the garden of Eden to guard the way to the tree of life. Cain Murders Abel The man was intimate with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave tirth to Cain. She said, "I have had a male child with the LORD's help."² She also gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel became a shepherd of flocks, but Cain worked the ground. ³ In the course of time Cain presented some of the land's produce as an offering to the LORD. ⁴ And Abel also presented

an offering — some of the firstborn of his flock and their fat portions. The LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵ but he did not have regard for Cain and his offering. Cain was furious, and he looked despondent.

⁶ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you furious? And why do you look despondent? ⁷ If you do what is right, won't you be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it."

⁸ Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

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

"I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's guardian?"

¹⁰ Then he said, "What have you done? Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground! ¹¹ So now you are cursed, alienated from the ground that opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood you have shed. ¹² If you work the ground, it will never again give you its yield. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth."

¹³ But Cain answered the LORD, "My punishment is too great to bear!¹⁴ Since you are banishing me today from the face of the earth, and I must hide from your presence and become a restless wanderer on the earth, whoever finds me will kill me."

¹⁵ Then the LORD replied to him, "In that case, whoever kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over." And he placed a mark on Cain so that whoever found him would not kill him. ¹⁶ Then Cain went out from the LORD's presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

The Line of Cain

¹⁷ Cain was intimate with his wife, and she conceived and gave birth to Enoch. Then Cain became the builder of a city, and he named the city Enoch after his son. ¹⁸ Irad was born to Enoch, Irad fathered Mehujael, Mehujael fathered Methushael, and Methushael fathered Lamech. ¹⁹ Lamech took two wives for himself, one named Adah and the other named Zillah. ²⁰ Adah bore Jabal; he was the first of the nomadic herdsmen. ²¹ His brother was named Jubal; he was the first of all who play the lyre and the flute. ²² Zillah bore Tubal-cain, who made all kinds of bronze and iron tools. Tubal-cain's sister was Naamah. ²³ Lamech said to his wives:

> Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; wives of Lamech, pay attention to my words. For I killed a man for wounding me, a young man for striking me.

²⁴ If Cain is to be avenged seven times over, then for Lamech it will be seventy-seven times!

²⁵ Adam was intimate with his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth, for she said, "God has given me another offspring in place of Abel, since Cain killed him." ²⁶ A son was born to Seth also, and he named him Enosh. At that time people began to call on the name of the LORD.

The Line of Seth

5 This is the document containing the family records of Adam. On the day that God created man, he made him in the likeness of God; ² he created them male and female. When they were created, he blessed them and called them mankind.

³ Adam was 130 years old when he fathered a son in his likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth. ⁴ Adam lived 800 years after he fathered Seth, and he fathered other sons and daughters. ⁵ So Adam's life lasted 930 years; then he died.

⁶ Seth was 105 years old when he fathered Enosh. ⁷ Seth lived 807 years after he fathered Enosh, and he fathered other sons and daughters. ⁸ So Seth's life lasted 912 years; then he died.

⁹ Enosh was ⁹0 years old when he fathered Kenan. ¹⁰ Enosh lived 815 years after he fathered Kenan, and he fathered other sons and daughters. ¹¹ So Enosh's life lasted 905 years; then he died.

¹² Kenan was 70 years old when he fathered Mahalalel. ¹³ Kenan lived 840 years after he fathered Mahalalel, and he fathered other sons and daughters. ¹⁴ So Kenan's life lasted 910 years; then he died.

¹⁵ Mahalalel was 65 years old when he fathered Jared. ¹⁶ Mahalalel lived 830 years after he fathered Jared, and he fathered other sons and daughters. ¹⁷ So Mahalalel's life lasted 895 years; then he died.

¹⁸ Jared was 162 years old when he fathered Enoch. ¹⁹ Jared lived 800 years after he fathered Enoch, and he fathered other sons and daughters. ²⁰ So Jared's life lasted 962 years; then he died.

²¹Enoch was 65 years old when he fathered Methuselah. ²² And after he fathered Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and fathered other sons and daughters. ²³ So Enoch's life lasted 365 years. ²⁴ Enoch walked with God; then he was not there because God took him.

²⁵ Methuselah was 187 years old when he fathered Lamech. ²⁶ Methuselah lived 782 years after he fathered Lamech, and he fathered other sons and daughters. ²⁷ So Methuselah's life lasted 969 years; then he died.

²⁸ Lamech was 182 years old when he fathered a son. ²⁹ And he named him Noah, saying, "This one will bring us relief from the agonizing labor of our hands, caused by the ground the LORD has cursed." ³⁰ Lamech lived 595 years after he fathered Noah, and he fathered other sons and daughters. ³¹ So Lamech's life lasted 777 years; then he died.

³² Noah was 500 years old, and he fathered Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Sons of God and Daughters of Mankind

6 When mankind began to multiply on the earth and daughters were born to them, ² the sons of God saw that the daughters of mankind were beautiful, and they took any they chose as wives for themselves. ³ And the LORD said, "My Spirit will not remain with mankind forever, because they are corrupt. Their days will be 120 years." ⁴ The Nephilim were on the earth both in those days and afterward, when the sons of God came to the daughters of mankind, who bore children to them. They were the powerful men of old, the famous men.

Judgment Decreed

⁵ When the LORD saw that human wickedness was widespread on the earth and that every inclination of the human mind was nothing but evil all the time, ⁶ the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and he was deeply grieved. ⁷ Then the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I created, off the face of the earth, together with the animals, creatures that crawl, and birds of the sky — for I regret that I made them." ⁸ Noah, however, found favor with the LORD.

God Warns Noah

⁹ These are the family records of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among his contemporaries; Noah walked with God. ¹⁰ And Noah fathered three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

¹¹ Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with wickedness. ¹² God saw how corrupt the earth was, for every creature had corrupted its way on the earth. ¹³ Then God said to Noah, "I have decided to put an end to every creature, for the earth is filled with wickedness because of them; therefore I am going to destroy them along with the earth.

¹⁴ "Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it with pitch inside and outside. ¹⁵ This is how you are to make it: The ark will be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. ¹⁶ You are to make a roof, finishing the sides of the ark to within eighteen inches of the roof. You are to put a door in the side of the ark. Make it with lower, middle, and upper decks.

¹⁷ "Understand that I am bringing a flood — floodwaters on the earth to destroy every creature under heaven with the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. ¹⁸ But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark with your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives. ¹⁹ You are also to bring into the ark two of all the living creatures, male and female, to

keep them alive with you. ²⁰ Two of everything — from the birds according to their kinds, from the livestock according to their kinds, and from the animals that crawl on the ground according to their kinds — will come to you so that you can keep them alive. ²¹ Take with you every kind of food that is eaten; gather it as food for you and for them." ²² And Noah did this. He did everything that God had commanded him.

Entering the Ark

7 Then the LORD said to Noah, "Enter the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation.² You are to take with you seven pairs, a male and its female, of all the clean animals, and two of the animals that are not clean, a male and its female, ³ and seven pairs, male and female, of the birds of the sky — in order to keep offspring alive throughout the earth. ⁴ Seven days from now I will make it rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and every living thing I have made I will wipe off the face of the earth." ⁵ And Noah did everything that the LORD commanded him.

⁶Noah was six hundred years old when the flood came and water covered the earth. ⁷So Noah, his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives entered the ark because of the floodwaters. ⁸From the animals that are clean, and from the animals that are not clean, and from the birds and every creature that crawls on the ground, ⁹two of each, male and female, came to Noah and entered the ark, just as God had commanded him. ¹⁰Seven days later the floodwaters came on the earth.

The Flood

The Flood Recedes

¹¹ In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the sources of the vast watery depths burst open, the floodgates of the sky were opened, ¹² and the rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. ¹³ On that same day Noah and his three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, entered the ark, along with Noah's wife and his three sons' wives. ¹⁴ They entered it with all the wildlife according to their kinds, all livestock according to their kinds, all the creatures that crawl on the earth according to their kinds, every flying creature — all the birds and every winged creature — according to their kinds. ¹⁵ Two of every creature that has the breath of life in it came to Noah and entered the ark. ¹⁶ Those that entered, male and female of every creature, entered just as God had commanded him. Then the LORD shut him in.

¹⁷The flood continued for forty days on the earth: the water increased

and lifted up the ark so that it rose above the earth. ¹⁸ The water surged and

increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the

water.¹⁹ Then the water surged even higher on the earth, and all the high

mountains under the whole sky were covered. ²⁰ The mountains were cov-

ered as the water surged above them more than twenty feet. ²¹ Every crea-

ture perished — those that crawl on the earth, birds, livestock, wildlife, and

those that swarm on the earth, as well as all mankind.²² Everything with the

breath of the spirit of life in its nostrils — everything on dry land died.²³ He

wiped out every living thing that was on the face of the earth, from man-

kind to livestock, to creatures that crawl, to the birds of the sky, and they

were wiped off the earth. Only Noah was left, and those that were with him

• God remembered Noah, as well as all the wildlife and all the livestock

O that were with him in the ark. God caused a wind to pass over the earth,

and the water began to subside.² The sources of the watery depths and the

floodgates of the sky were closed, and the rain from the sky stopped. ³The

water steadily receded from the earth, and by the end of 150 days the water

had decreased significantly.⁴ The ark came to rest in the seventh month, on

on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were visible. ⁶ After

forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made, ⁷ and he

⁵ The water continued to recede until the tenth month: in the tenth month.

the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat.

in the ark. ²⁴ And the water surged on the earth 150 days.

O Lord, some say they could never believe in a God who would bring about such catastrophic loss of life. But if we really understood how holy You are, how sinful humanity is, how longsuffering and patient You are, and the provision You have made through Christ, for mankind to be rescued from Your judgment and wrath, we would bow in worship, wonder, and profound gratitude. I stand amazed that You have shown mercy to anyone, to me. I want to spend my life urging others to receive Your grace and be saved before it is eternally too late.



the earth. ⁸ Then he sent out a dove to see whether the water on the earth's surface had gone down, ⁹ but the dove found no resting place for its foot. It returned to him in the ark because water covered the surface of the whole earth. He reached out and brought it into the ark to himself. ¹⁰ So Noah waited seven more days and sent out the dove from the ark again. ¹¹ When the dove came to him at evening, there was a plucked olive leaf in its beak. So Noah knew that the water on the earth's surface had gone down. ¹² After he had waited another seven days, he sent out the dove, but it did not return to him again. ¹³ In the six hundred first year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the water that had covered the earth was dried up. Then Noah removed the ark's cover and saw that the surface of the ground was drying. ¹⁴ By the twenty-seventh day of the second month, the earth was dry.

sent out a raven. It went back and forth until the water had dried up from

The Lord's Promise

¹⁵ Then God spoke to Noah, ¹⁶ "Come out of the ark, you, your wife, your sons, and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁷ Bring out all the living creatures that are with you — birds, livestock, those that crawl on the earth — and they will spread over the earth and be fruitful and multiply on the earth." ¹⁸ So Noah, along with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, came out. ¹⁹ All the animals, all the creatures that crawl, and all the flying creatures — everything that moves on the earth — came out of the ark by their families.

²⁰ Then Noah built an altar to the LORD. He took some of every kind of clean animal and every kind of clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. ²¹ When the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, he said to himself, "I will never again curse the ground because of human beings, even though the inclination of the human heart is evil from youth onward. And I will never again strike down every living thing as I have done.

As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night will not cease."

God's Covenant with Noah

9 God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. ² The fear and terror of you will be in every living creature on the earth, every bird of the sky, every creature that crawls on the ground, and all the fish of the sea. They are placed under your authority. ³ Every creature that lives and moves will be food for you; as I gave the green plants, I have given you everything. ⁴ However, you must not eat meat with its lifeblood in it. ⁵ And I will require a penalty for your lifeblood; I will require it from any animal and from any human; if someone murders a fellow human, I will require that person's life.

⁶ Whoever sheds human blood,

by humans his blood will be shed,

for God made humans in his image.

⁷But you, be fruitful and multiply; spread out over the earth and multiply on it."

⁸ Then God said to Noah and his sons with him, ⁹ "Understand that I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you — birds, livestock, and all wild-life of the earth that are with you — all the animals of the earth that came out of the ark. ¹¹ Establish my covenant with you that never again will every creature be wiped out by floodwaters; there will never again be a flood to destroy the earth."

¹² And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all future generations: ¹³ I have placed my bow in the clouds, and it will be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ Whenever I form clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant between me and you and all the living creatures: water will never again become a flood to destroy every creature. ¹⁶ The bow will be in the clouds, and

GENESIS 9:16