



March

RIBLE
DISCOVERY

Inside the Guide

Welcome	3
How to use this Guide	4
Spotlight on Angels	5
Spotlight on Science	6
March Devotional	7
About Bible Discovery	39
Contact	39

SUBSCRIBE

Gain a deeper understanding of the Word of God with the Bible Discovery Guide and read through the Bible in a year – no matter when you start! Receive a Guide in the mail every month for a year when you subscribe with a donation of any amount. Visit BibleDiscoveryGuide.com today!

DONATE

Your donations equip people all over the world with free Bible Discovery content like The Daily Show. Explore the breadth of our ministry and renew your support today at BibleDiscoveryTv.com.



Catch the companion show!

Along with our daily TV show, you can gain even further insights from a variety of perspectives as you journey through the Bible in a year with us.

From our weekly live stream to video articles, blogs and sermons, tap into our study material that best suits your schedule and style of learning, all available for free online.

Visit BibleDiscoveryTv.com today to explore all that the ministry has to offer!

MARCH 2025

Contributors

Rod Hembree
Corie Bobeckho
Ryan Hembree
Janice Hembree
Matlock Bobeckho

*With thanks to
all our partners
whose donations
make this Guide
possible.*

Image Credits

Unsplash
Pexels
Public Domain

MARCH 2025

1 ADAR, 5785 – 2 NISSAN, 5785

God Speaks

The Bible is the most unique book in all of history. A recent study showed that, in the last year, sales of this ancient book are up. The Bible is the publication of the words of the Holy Spirit to all humankind, in every nation, to every generation. When the LORD created His unique revelation in words, He knew He would be talking to everyone, everywhere, at every time. And while there are some who do not believe the Bible is anything special, they could not be more wrong.

The sixty-six books of the Word of God, the Bible, are a supernatural production by the power of the Holy Spirit. Also important to keep in mind is that to read the Bible and to know the Bible are two different things. In other words, we need to read the Bible, but we also need to heed the Bible. It is not enough to simply commit ourselves to read God's Word, we must determine in our hearts to obey His Word. That is something many people do not want to do because

they desire to go their own way and be their own god.

Yet when we read the Word of God, we are challenged in our thinking. We often don't think of the Bible the way we should. Our spirit tells us that it is different and powerful, while our human ideas are in rebellion.

We should always pray before we read the Bible, so that we can hear what God is saying to us. This month, we will continue to read the book of Deuteronomy then Joshua, Judges, Ruth, and 1 Samuel. Remember, let's not simply read with our limited human understanding, but ask the Holy Spirit to help us hear Him. God is speaking to us every day, but the question is: Are we listening?



Rod Hembree, Th.D, DE.



CHARLES ROD HEMBREE is the founding pastor of *Good Friends Fellowship* in Ontario, Canada. He brings his extensive production background and Biblical training together to serve the Body of Christ as the Executive Director of Bible Discovery.

MARCH 2025

How to use this Guide

Make the most of your devotional time with our Guide to the Bible in a year. Each Guide provides valuable context and theological insight to help strengthen your faith and dig deeper into the richness of God's Word every day.

The following three tips will help you make the most of your daily Bible reading and Guide:



SPOTLIGHT ON...

In every Guide, you'll find a section with specific highlights from the perspectives of history, apologetics, theology, and more. These viewpoints provide a holistic context from which to view the month's Bible reading, giving us a greater understanding of the Word, and equipping us to grasp the impact of the Bible in these important fields.



DAILY READING

The readings are in traditional order, with a date corresponding to the Hebrew calendar. Each reading consists of a daily insight and a focus on three major takeaways from the day's Bible passage. Challenge yourself to meditate on the *Discovering The Truth* and *Today's Prayer* sections as you go about your day.



WATCH THE DAILY SHOW

Catch our companion TV series for even more valuable insight and theological discussion, hosted daily by the Hembree family. Join Rod, Janice, Ryan and Corie in this thirty-minute devotional show that will change the way you see and read the Bible. Visit **BibleDiscoveryTv.com** to watch our show online or to find a TV channel in your area.

Jesus in Judges

by Ryan Hembree



Who is “the Angel of the LORD” in the book of Judges?

There are several appearances of “the Angel of the LORD” in the Old Testament. Sometimes these are just angels in human form, but at other times it is clearly the LORD himself in human form. When God physically manifests Himself, it is called a theophany. This term is composed of two Greek words meaning *God* and *appearance*. One of the purposes of theophanies in the Old Testament is to “anticipate and foreshadow the permanent coming of God into creation in the incarnation of

done this? Therefore I also said, ‘I will not drive them out before you; but they shall be thorns in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you.’” The first thing to note is the language the “angel” uses. He speaks in the first person and takes credit for saving Israel—only a claim that God could make. Clearly, He’s not speaking *for* God but *as* God. Thus, here we have a theophany. Not only that, but the New Testament book of Jude is very clear about the identity of the One who delivered God’s people from slavery in the OT. He says, “But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord [Jesus]...saved the

people out of the land of Egypt, [and] afterward destroyed those who did not believe.” In 1 Corinthians 10:4 the Apostle Paul also identifies Jesus Christ as the One who led the

Israelites through the wilderness for 40 years. Thus, not only is this a theophany but a Christophany!

These theophanies/Christophanies in Judges are very fitting since that is who the book is ultimately about. It cries out for the ultimate king, conqueror, deliverer, and judge—Jesus Christ—the Saviour of the world. As mentioned earlier, one of the purposes of theophanies in the Old Testament is to “anticipate and foreshadow the permanent coming of God into creation in the incarnation of the Son.” Hallelujah! ■

THE QUESTION IS, ARE THESE APPEARANCES MERELY ANGELIC BEINGS OR ARE THEY THEOPHANIES?

the Son.” Hence, many Christian scholars identify these physical appearances of God in human form as “the preexistent Messiah” (SEE ISAIAH 9)—the pre-incarnation of Jesus Christ.

Interestingly, in the Old Testament book of Judges the angel of the LORD appears several times (E.G., JUDGES 2:1, 5:23, 6:11,12,20-22; 13:3,13,15,16,18,20,21). The question is, are these appearances merely angelic beings or are they theophanies? These passages reveal that they are the latter.

As just one example, consider the first appearance of the angel of the LORD in Judges 2:1-3. He says to Israel: “*I led you up from Egypt and brought you to the land of which I swore to your fathers; and I said, ‘I will never break My covenant with you. And you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.’ But you have not obeyed My voice. Why have you*

FURTHER READING

This article is an excerpt. Read the full article on our website: <https://biblediscoverytv.com/spotlight/2024/jesus-in-judges/>

Dealing with Miracles

by Corie Bobecko



The Bible records many amazing actions of God within its pages. Face to face talks, supernatural creatures, one-time natural events as a direct result of God's interference like the Flood, the rainbow, and the ten plagues of Egypt. The Bible records miracles like the Red Sea crossing, the stopping of the Jordan and the destruction of the walls of Jericho. Today's Western world finds these events intolerable. If we don't see or experience these things today, then they must be impossible. Which, we should be reminded is a part of the definition of a miracle: something very unusual that without the

Other natural explanations seem to expose our willingness to believe in anything but miracles. Or perhaps to try to scientifically bolster the credibility of our belief in the God of the Bible. Good examples of this are found in the natural explanation theories given for the ten plagues of Egypt. Popular theories see harmful algae invade the Nile due to violent storms upriver or a harmful organism invades the Nile and begins attacking fish. These are equated to the first plague of the Nile River turning to blood, which then begins a chain reaction that accounts for the first six plagues.

PEOPLE HAVE RESPONDED TO THE MIRACLES OF THE BIBLE IN MANY WAYS: REJECTION, NATURAL REASON, ACCEPTANCE.

outside interference of God would be impossible! People have responded to the miracles of the Bible in many ways, wholesale rejection of them as myth or legend, wholesale acceptance of them as possible for a creator God and attempts at explanation that often reach into the natural world. Perhaps, for example, the stopping of the Jordan River during Joshua's conquest of Canaan was caused by an earthquake since the Bible says the water flow was stopped up in a heap at the city of Adam (**JOSHUA 3:16**), and to this day earthquakes and landslides are known to periodically cause interruptions in the river's flow.

Natural explanations like this go some way in making us modern men feel more comfortable, but when analyzed more closely even if the Jordan was stopped by a landslide, the chances of it stopping right when the priests carrying the ark began walking into the river are astronomical. In other words, it would still be classified as a miracle of God, who told the Israelites where and when to walk into the Jordan in the first place.

While these theories seem to offer intriguing possible methods for the miracles of God, they only potentially account for the first six

plagues, with a new sequence of natural events needed for the final four. They also are not evidenced by any known activity in the area. Scholar Brad C. Sparks has convincingly shown these explanations themselves would require rather miraculous circumstances to begin in the Nile River: One of the algae in question naturally occurs in stagnant or slow flowing rivers not at all matching the description of the Nile, and others occur only in cold temperatures making them incompatible with the tropical Nile. Interestingly, these natural explanations themselves would still require something rather miracle-like to have occurred.

Whichever way we cut it; the Bible serves as a challenge to us. *The question is: how will we respond?* ■

SPOTLIGHT FOOTNOTES

- Brad C. Sparks, *Did Anthrax Plague the Egyptians?* Associates for Biblical Research. Published on October 17, 2007. <https://biblicalarchaeology.org/research/chronological-categories/exodus-era/3990-did-anthrax-plague-the-egyptians>
- "Exodus in the Bible and the Egyptian Plagues". Biblical Archaeology Society. <https://www.baslibrary.org/bible-review/6/3/13https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-topics/exodus/exodus-in-the-bible-and-the-egyptian-plagues/>



2025 BIBLE DISCOVERY GUIDE

March

DEUTERONOMY — 1 SAMUEL



God's Economy

DEUTERONOMY 15-18

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Despite popular opinion, the economy does not depend on the wealthiest members of society—it depends on God. Nothing of true spiritual value is defined by wealth, only the Bible defines the real spiritual value of conducting ourselves with the money God has given us. God's mind is paramount in our decision-making about where and what we give to. We do not make great spiritual decisions about our money if, when we get ready to give, we ignore the Word of God. Those who follow Christ seek to become more like Him and, in doing so, everything we do, whether work, rest, or play, must conform to the ways of God. The Old Testament law was a foundation from which God conducted His chosen people to think and live. Today, we have been given the ability to make money through the blessings of God, and with that we are also given the responsibility to give to others in the name of Jesus.

DISCOVERING GOD — DEUTERONOMY 15:1-11

— 1 —

Israel was commanded not to think about their money as the other nations did.

As Christians, we must become like-minded with Christ about money.

(v. 1-5)

— 2 —

Israel would not be a debtor but would lend to other nations, if they obeyed God.

As Christians, we are blessed when we obey and apply God's Word to every part of our lives. (v. 6)

— 3 —

Israel was not to have a bad attitude toward lending to their brother. As

Christians, our focus should not be on being repaid but in obedience to give as God directs. (v. 7-11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

How we handle our money is a witness to unbelievers. It shows people around us our priorities, such as how we think about the LORD and what He has done for us.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, KEEP MY ATTITUDE
RIGHT WITH YOU. ALL MY
WEALTH BELONGS TO YOU.**

My Cry

PSALMS 27-30

DISCOVERING THE WORD

When we hear the word “cry”, we often think of expressions of lamentation, grief, anguish, or suffering, usually with tears. Or, perhaps, a loud wail of inarticulate words, a noise caused by the pain we are feeling and experiencing. But have we ever asked: Where are our tears aimed—to whom or to what are we crying? And why do we cry and make noise so that people can hear us? This is an interesting study because these basic questions about crying keep us truthful to our need for God. When we are children, we cry!—for all sorts of reasons. Yet, the Bible also teaches us that, “Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength, because of Your enemies, that You may silence the enemy and the avenger” (PSALM 8:2). God speaks about our desperate need for Him and His help. When we cry out to God, He listens to us.

DISCOVERING GOD — PSALM 28:1-9

— 1 —

David recognizes that it is only God who can truly isolate us from evil.

As Christians, we are constantly under conflict with the spirits in this world. Soon that will end.

(v. 1-3)

— 2 —

David reminds us that evil does not recognize God’s provision and power. As Christians, we make room for God in our lives to move and work good, and defeat evil.

(v. 4-5)

— 3 —

The LORD God hears the cries of His people. As Christians, we know that God hears us and helps us when we truly seek Him.

(v. 6-9)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

One of the key aspects of reading the Word of God is getting to know Him. It is one thing to say you know God, yet it is very different to truly discover who He really is. God is our provider, our protector, He is our strength and our Saviour!

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, YOU ARE LORD OF MY LIFE IN ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE: WORK, REST, AND PLAY.

Innocent Blood

DEUTERONOMY 19–23

DISCOVERING THE WORD

In our reading today of Deuteronomy 21, we learn about the law of God concerning unsolved murders within the community of His people. If a person was found dead, the elders and judges would measure the distance to the nearest city. The city closest to the victim was assumed to be the place where the murderer resided. The elders of that city would, then, take responsibility and perform the rituals set in place by God to absolve their community from the sin. This is how life was to be reckoned in the place where God had set them. The elders would testify that neither they nor the people of their city had committed the murder or witnessed it. Then they would appeal to God that He would not hold them all guilty for what had been done by one. It is Old Testament law, but the principle remains the same: We should take responsibility for our public sins and ask the LORD for His forgiveness.

DISCOVERING GOD – DEUTERONOMY 21:1–9

– 1 –

Israel was told that life is sacred and death was not to be ignored. We must remember that God is the giver of life.

(v. 1–4)

– 2 –

Priests were called to supervise the sacred responsibility of life in ancient Israel. Today, on this side of the cross, Christians are called to be the priests of the LORD. (v. 5)

– 3 –

Israel was called to do what was right in the eyes of the LORD.

Christians are people who work to live and do what is right in the eyes of God.

(v. 6–9)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

As believers in Jesus Christ, we must consider our actions and reactions in the light of God's eyes and not our own desires. Our lives are no longer ours because we have given ourselves to the LORD. God uses us to reach out and touch others in His name.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, MY HEART'S DESIRE IS FOR MY LIFE TO CONFORM TO WHAT YOU WANT. PLEASE HELP ME TO LIVE FOR YOU.

The Mercy of God

DEUTERONOMY 24-27

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Moses restates the law of God that was first given between the LORD and Israel at Sinai, who had mostly died out in the years from that time, to the younger generation. Deuteronomy is a pastoral repetition of the Law to enable that generation to live obediently before God and to live out His purpose for them. We, too, can learn that our lives are not only about us and making our decisions alone, but also about those around us. There are ways God has directed us to live that demonstrate to those around us what our spiritual calling is. We are spiritual creatures. Everything we do is not just for our physical life, but also about our spiritual calling. Moses knew this when he spoke to the people of ancient Israel; their covenant relationship with God meant to live their lives both individually and as a nation in total commitment to the LORD God. While some of these laws may be difficult for us to understand in today's world, we are still called to live as God's people in loving obedience to Him. "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength" (DEUT. 6:5).

DISCOVERING GOD — DEUTERONOMY 25:1-10

— 1 —

Israel is reminded with the restriction of lashes that there can be a fine line between justice and revenge. We must realize God's interest in justice.

(v. 1-3)

— 2 —

God's mercy in His Law extended even towards the treatment of their animals.

Even the ox was given mercy to eat of its labour.

(v. 4)

— 3 —

Israel was commanded to keep the family name preserved in history.

We are called to honour and respect all people as God's creation, not as accidents of nature.

(v. 6-10)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

When we are born again in Christ Jesus, our mind is renewed, we are a new creation. This means that how we think and what we do affects all other areas of our life. Let's live as God's people called to live in loving obedience to Him.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, HELP ME TO UNDERSTAND THAT EVERYONE HAS A SPIRITUAL CALLING FROM GOD.

Moses' Farewell

DEUTERONOMY 28-31

DISCOVERING THE WORD

God told Moses that he would not enter the Promised Land because he had mishandled His authority given to Him by God. How did he mishandle it? When Israel complained that there was no water, God gave Moses specific instructions to gather the people together. He was to speak to the rock and it would give them water before their eyes. Moses became impatient and angry with the people and ignored God's instructions and struck the rock twice. The result of his disobedience was that he could not go into the Promised Land with the new generation of Israel (**NUMBERS 20:8-12**). When Joshua was put into place as the new leader of Israel, much work still needed to be done. In Deuteronomy 31, we witness the personal goodbye of Moses to Israel. Here, we see Moses not only warn the people but also encourage and commend Joshua in His calling, "And the LORD, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed" (**DEUTERONOMY 31:8**).

DISCOVERING GOD — DEUTERONOMY 31:1-8

— 1 —

Moses reminds Israel that the LORD will be before them to lead them.

Jesus Christ is the head of the Church—those who recognize Him alone as LORD.

(v. 1-5)

— 2 —

Moses encourages Israel to be strong and courageous because the LORD God will lead and protect them.

Our real and authentic courage comes from God

alone. (v. 6)

— 3 —

Moses tells Joshua to be strong and move forward in courage because it is the LORD who goes before him. We are to move forward

in Christ but we must be careful to follow Him. (v. 7-8)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Jesus Christ is the head of the Church. The Church is identified not by the government but through God's Holy Word. Churches that read and heed the Bible, discovering its true meaning, are Churches which serve Jesus Christ as LORD.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, THANK YOU FOR THE AUTHORITY OF YOUR WORD, THE BIBLE. HELP ME TO MAKE IT A PRIORITY IN MY LIFE EVERY DAY.

The Blessings of Moses

DEUTERONOMY 32-34

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Moses delivers his final blessing on Israel, before his death on Mount Nebo. Through Moses, it is God who tells His people Israel that they are blessed not because they deserve the blessing, but because He loves them. This is an important point for us to remember when we offer our praise to the LORD. God blesses His people not because we deserve it but because He loves us. Jesus Christ became a Man and did all His work to fulfill God's law, because of His amazing love. Many try to build themselves up to think that God's Kingdom is blessed to have them in it, but they are deeply mistaken. We are blessed because God loved us and made a way for us to enter His Kingdom! When we gain that kind of understanding, we begin to realize the fulfillment of just how devastating sin is—it destroys our relationship with God. But—Praise God!—Jesus Christ has come and restored our relationship with God, to all who believe.

DISCOVERING GOD – DEUTERONOMY 33:1-7

– 1 –

The Word of God is remarkably important.

Jesus Christ is our King, our LORD and Saviour. Always remember that!

(v. 1-3)

– 2 –

God is Israel's King.

God is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

(v. 4-5)

– 3 –

God will bless the tribe of Judah to be strong and bring Messiah.

Jesus Christ is our ultimate King, now and forever.

(v. 6-7)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

There are many who reject and deny that Jesus Christ is King over all, but it is the truth. Every eye will see, every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord; He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords (PHIL. 2:9-11, REV. 19:16).

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I WORSHIP YOU AS MY SAVIOUR AND MY KING.

The Stones

JOSHUA 1-4

DISCOVERING THE WORD

When Israel crossed over the Jordan River into the Promised Land, God instructed Joshua to have one man from each of the twelve tribes carry a stone from the river and set them up as a memorial. Once the stones were arranged, Joshua spoke to the children of Israel saying that in the generations to come when their children would ask what the stones were for, they would remember and teach how that God had let Israel cross over the Jordan on dry ground as He had also done at the Red Sea. It was God, alone, who had brought them into the Promised Land. It was God who had gone before them to conquer the nations that were fixed in the land of Canaan. As we read the Word of God, we learn this principle: God has made Himself known—we are without excuse. Scripture is like God's memorial stones set up throughout time to remind us of who He is and what He has done, as well as what He will still do in our future!

DISCOVERING GOD – JOSHUA 4:1-9

– 1 –

God gave Israel specific instructions to take stones from the Jordan River as a memorial. We must always remember what has God has done in our lives.

(v. 1-3)

– 2 –

One man from each of Israel's twelve tribes was to take a stone and carry it on his shoulder. Sometimes God has us do unique things as a sign to remember Him.

(v. 4-7)

– 3 –

The memorial was made for God's promised covenant for all to see across time. Jesus Christ is God; He is not limited by time.

(v. 8-9)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

No matter how young or old we are, it is good to remember what the Lord Jesus Christ has done for us. Getting old and dying is brought on by sin; maturity is brought on by experience with God's Holy Spirit, who is life eternal.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I WANT TO CHANGE HOW I THINK ABOUT AGING. HELP ME TO MATURE IN YOU.

Defeat at Ai

JOSHUA 5-8

DISCOVERING THE WORD

We often judge our situations based on what we see in our surroundings. Many believe that we are not accountable collectively, only personally. But that is simply not true! While it is true that we are accountable personally, we are also accountable collectively. As a young man, I believed that I could make my own decisions and escape the traps that come within my community—if I didn't sin, then, I would not have to bear the consequence or live with the effects of others around me. But that is an incomplete picture of how accountability works. What is true is that God is faithful to keep us close to Him and He will help us through the trouble even if we are not the personal cause of it. This new generation of Israel had finally come into the Promised Land and was enjoying the special blessing of God but, unfortunately, would later experience the consequence of breaking a wholehearted dedication to God. They had sinned as a nation, affecting them all.

DISCOVERING GOD – JOSHUA 7:1-11

– 1 –

God's anger was not isolated to Achan's sin but against the entire nation of Israel. As followers of Jesus Christ, we must work together.

(v. 1)

– 2 –

One man failed to obey God's command and thirty-six of Israel's men were killed. How we choose to live not only affects us personally, but those around us.

(v. 2-5)

– 3 –

God expected Israel to know the result of disobedience collectively, not just personally.

We must seek God's will completely, not just for ourselves. (v. 6-11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The Church is a powerful work of Jesus Christ. What we do collectively matters to us all. We must keep the LORD Jesus Christ, who is the head of the Church, at the very center of our thinking, both personally and collectively.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO ADJUST
MY THINKING TO UNDERSTAND
MY RESPONSIBILITY BOTH
CORPORATELY AND
PERSONALLY.**

God Is Our Help

PSALMS 31–33

DISCOVERING THE WORD

There is absolutely nothing that can permanently be done to destroy the souls of those who love the LORD, those who have given their lives to follow Him. It is God Almighty who protects each and every person who has placed their life into His hands. As we come into the gathering of Christ, we are protected by the Great Shepherd. Psalm 31 is just one example of the many passages in the Bible to declare this truth: that if we place our trust in God, He will protect us. When we place our trust in God and align our souls with the LORD, He gives us life eternal. The Psalms we read today are good for us to pray to reinforce our understanding of who God is and how protected we are; to keep our hearts and minds focused on God's truth. Remember: there is nothing that can be done to our soul—the LORD Jesus Christ is our fortress, our defense—it is He alone who will keep us safe from anything that satan will try to trouble us with. Praise the LORD!

DISCOVERING GOD — PSALM 31:1–10

– 1 –

When we come to the LORD in times of need, He always hears and responds. We should come to Christ—walk with Him and talk with Him, every day.

(v. 1–2)

– 2 –

God is our strength and help, He is LORD of truth. We should call on God daily to help, strengthen, and lead us.

(v. 3–5)

– 3 –

Iniquity is a problem. Our merciful LORD has come to heal and deliver us—we must humbly follow and trust in Him, always.

(v. 6–10)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The Church worldwide belongs to Jesus Christ; He is the head, the master, the One who formed and created it. When it is under attack or persecution, we must pray for our brothers and sisters that the LORD will help them: give courage, healing, and deliverance from the attacks.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I PRAY FOR YOUR CHURCH WORLDWIDE. STRENGTHEN US TO REMAIN STRONG, AS WE PUT OUR HOPE IN YOU.

No Peace

JOSHUA 9–11

DISCOVERING THE WORD

There will never be any lasting peace until Jesus Christ returns. The LORD will return to the earth at some point in the future to rule and reign for 1,000 years. We read about this in Isaiah 60 and Revelation 20, as well as several other places in the Bible. Personally, I do not believe that Christ's 1,000-year reign is metaphorical. I believe it to be true. Satan will be bound 1,000 years—the time of the Messianic rule (**REVELATION 20:2**). This will be a time in which the only rebellion against Jesus Christ will be in the soul of man. What an extraordinary time this will be—when peace on the earth will be present, while the human struggle will still exist. Not until the new heaven and the new earth will there be total peace (**REVELATION 21**). Joshua 10 explains the trouble Israel had when they came into the land of Canaan—the nations and kingdoms in that land did not care about God's commands and created war everywhere.

DISCOVERING GOD – JOSHUA 10:1–11

– 1 –

When the king of Jerusalem saw Israel come in and make peace, he called the other kingdoms to make war against them.

There is no true peace on earth until Jesus Christ.

(v. 1–4)

– 2 –

The men of earthly kingdoms warred against God's Kingdom. Since the sin of Eden, there is an ongoing war between God and man.

(v. 5)

– 3 –

God fought for, and with, the Israelites for His Kingdom to be established. God will always accomplish His will, one way or another.

(v. 6–11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

There is a time coming when Jesus Christ will return, and everyone will see Him. At that time, they will not need any faith to come to Christ. We have some time left to help people, through faith, know who Jesus Christ really is: He is the LORD.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, HELP ME TO REACH AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE, TO TELL THEM WHO YOU ARE AND WHAT YOU HAVE DONE FOR ME.

Finish What You Started

JOSHUA 12–13

DISCOVERING THE WORD

God does not think like we do. We typically believe that people can do anything if they don't think negative. But the truth is we are all limited. In reality, it is God who has created us and programmed inside our very DNA the ability to complete all things that He has commanded us to do. Problems arise though, when (1) we choose not to do the things that God has called us to do and, (2) we cannot do the things God has called us to do without Him. The Holy Spirit is the divine agent who leads and teaches us how to fulfill the commands God has called us to complete. In our reading today, God gives the aged Joshua an overview of the areas of land not yet conquered in Canaan, but instructs him to divvy up the land amongst the tribes of Israel anyway because the LORD Himself will drive out the remaining inhabitants.

DISCOVERING GOD – JOSHUA 13:1–13

– 1 –

God gave Joshua a detailed listing of the lands yet to be occupied. The LORD calls us to be faithful.

(v. 1–7)

– 2 –

The LORD highlights the nations not yet conquered. God's commands are absolute, not partial.

(v. 8–12)

– 3 –

Israel did not complete God's commands. When we ignore what God tells us, we live with the results.

(v. 13)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Problems can surface in our circumstances that turn us to blame God. But when we turn toward God in these times, we will grow in our understanding, our trust and faith in Him. It is best to ask the LORD, every day, to help us to be faithful in our walk with Him and to complete His calling in our lives.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, HELP ME TO LEARN AND GROW IN YOUR WORD TO ACCOMPLISH ALL THAT YOU'VE CALLED ME TO.

Boundaries

JOSHUA 14–15

DISCOVERING THE WORD

God sets boundaries for every country, city, family, and individual. But, in this world, we tend to think that we are the ones who set and define our own boundaries. We often tell ourselves that we are limited only by our imaginations. Problem is: that is wrong. There *are* limits or boundaries to our abilities. God has set boundaries for us to fulfill our happiness and purpose in life. And while this idea is correct, it is not popular because we tend to think of God as limiting our abilities. But nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, not only does the LORD not limit our thinking, He expands it! Through God, we will do the impossible as we follow the LORD. God helps us to think and be what we could never be without Him. Furthermore, it doesn't end when we die because He gives us eternal life. So let's remember that as we read and apply the Bible in our lives, God is helping to expand the way we think and act.

DISCOVERING GOD – JOSHUA 15:1–12

– 1 –

God sets the borders for the tribe of Judah. The LORD reminds us that we are called to reach the people He has put in our lives.
(v. 1–6)

– 2 –

God gives the borders to the tribe of Judah and defines their possession. The Kingdom of God is defined by Him.
(v. 7–8)

– 3 –

Jesus Christ came through the tribe of Judah. Christ came into the world to save us from sin.
(v. 9–12)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The LORD's Kingdom is not founded in any form of government or kingdom in this world. The full meaning of what Jesus Christ is about will be made known when He comes back to rule and reign.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I DESIRE TO LISTEN TO YOUR WILL AND YOUR WAYS.

The Proclamation

JOSHUA 16–19

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Details of the land boundaries included all the tribes of Israel. The allotment for the tribe of Simeon and Zebulun were published in the early verses of Joshua 19, by God, for everyone to witness. It is important to remember that it is God who gave these specific lands to the specific tribes, in order that they might conquer and set in motion in that region the precepts and the principles the LORD has prescribed in His Word. There were two points: (1) to conquer the land and, (2) to put in place a lifestyle in line with God's Word. This was the proclamation which the LORD had commanded the tribes to live and make known to those around the nation. Israel was different, and they were commanded to live differently so that the world could see how God honoured and upheld people living by His law.

DISCOVERING GOD – JOSHUA 19:1–16

– 1 –

God called the tribe of Simeon to inhabit a specific place.

The LORD calls us to live by His standards.

(v. 1–8)

– 2 –

God always assigns the right places for the right people. The LORD has

promised that we each have our own calling and goals we should pursue.

(v. 9)

– 3 –

God assigns the tribe of Zebulun cities and villages they were to occupy.

Christ assigns us to live for Him in the place He has chosen for us.

(v. 10–16)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

As followers of the Lord Jesus, we are called to be His ambassadors, to be a witness in this world—we are the salt and light ([MATTHEW 5:13-16](#)). From our beginning to end, the LORD has plans for our lives. Our purpose here on earth is only the beginning of our eternal life with Him!

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO LEARN
TO LIVE FOR YOU EVERY
DAY OF MY LIFE.**

Culture of Restitution

JOSHUA 20–24

DISCOVERING THE WORD

The laws of God, while ancient in origin, are not outdated, irrelevant, or non-applicable in today's world. They were instructions given so that the people of Israel could, first of all, love and serve God and then love and take care of each other. This was unique in their time, as it is in ours. Humans, by nature, are selfish. However, when we encounter the presence of Jesus Christ and acknowledge Him as our Saviour to follow Him as LORD of our lives, we are literally a new creation! We begin the journey of transformation in our lives. This transformation does not come from our own self-discipline, but through the gift of God's Holy Spirit inside of us. This happens to those who are "born again", as Jesus would explain to Nicodemus in John chapter 3. Like the cities of refuge, it creates a culture not based on revenge but on restitution and justice.

DISCOVERING GOD – JOSHUA 20:1–6

– 1 –

God commanded that Israel have a good justice system. God's justice is not like man's. The LORD teaches us the sanctity of life. (v. 1–3)

– 2 –

God commanded that Israel preserve life when there was no hatred or pre-meditation behind a death. The LORD deals with our thoughts and motivations, not just our acts of sin. (v. 4–5)

– 3 –

The accused was to stay in the city free from any hatred until he could stand trial or until the death of the high priest. Christ gives the opportunity for repentance in our lives when we have violated His commands. (v. 6)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Life is a gift from God, not a natural part of man. We should always respect and honour life, because we did not give it or own it. Through Christ, we must learn to love life, always.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I NEED TO BE SOMEONE WHO LOVES THE LIFE YOU HAVE GIVEN.

Othniel

JUDGES 1-3

DISCOVERING THE WORD

The book of Judges is based on the leadership of ancient Israel. It speaks about the ups and downs of the nation as they moved forward in their struggle to conquer the land of Canaan, now called Israel. The book covers the period of time between 1400 BC and 1100 BC. This was the time before there were any earthly kings who reigned over Israel. The whole idea of having judges in Israel was the importance of remaining a faithful nation to God. Judges chapter 1 opens after the death of Joshua, with God's call to appoint Judah, who called on his brother Simeon to help fight against and conquer the people of Canaan. Chapter 2 deals with Israel's pattern of sin and judgment. Judges 3-16 cover the judges or God's agents of deliverance: Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, and Samson. Judges 17-21, deal with the lawlessness of ancient Israel. It would be yet another judge, after Eli (1 SAMUEL 4:18), named Samuel who anointed the first two kings of Israel: Saul and David (1 SAMUEL 10 & 16).

DISCOVERING GOD – JUDGES 3:1-11

– 1 –

God left nations in the land to test Israel; to see the LORD's faithfulness, and to test their commitment to serve Him alone. The LORD knows our weaknesses. We should always follow Him.

(v. 1-4)

– 2 –

The Israelites slipped away from God and did not obey Him. Our work is in our hearts. Every day we must give ourselves to the LORD and serve Him.

(v. 5-6)

– 3 –

God raised up Othniel as a judge, to deliver Israel. Christ calls those who are born again Christians to lead others to Him.

(v. 7-11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

As Christians we need to know what Jesus Christ said and did in the Bible. This way, we can apply His life and words to our words and actions as we live to tell others how Christ has changed us. This is called the Testimony of the LORD.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO LEARN
HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO
TELL OTHERS ABOUT YOU.**

Hard Conflict

PSALMS 34–35

DISCOVERING THE WORD

The Psalms of David are not only songs of praise but songs of desperation. Psalm 35 is a meditation put to music which makes hard conflict real. We can see how the struggle happens in the heart of the man lost in the struggle. So, in response, David brings it to the God of Israel. It's interesting that David never seems to have had difficulties talking to God about his deep struggles. This is important for us to remember. There have been people who have told me they do not want to bother God with their difficulties because the LORD is so busy running the universe. But I believe that the LORD is God, so high in ability beyond our understanding, there is nothing too hard for Him. And, He is our Father and desires us to come to Him in all things. In fact, many times it is in the hard times that we learn the true meaning and power of the LORD. When the Holy Spirit engages inside of us, through prayer, we begin to see God move in majestic ways.

DISCOVERING GOD — PSALM 35:1–10

– 1 –

David calls on God to move in and fight for him. The LORD moves in and fights for us when we call on Him daily, as people in need.
(v. 1–3)

– 2 –

God will pursue those who are pursuing His people. Our life is in Christ, He fights for us.
(v. 4–6)

– 3 –

God delivers those who are weak and unable to deliver themselves. In the LORD Jesus we trust; there is no one or nothing stronger than His mighty hand.
(v. 7–10)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Psalms is a book of rescue and praise. The LORD is deeply involved when believers of Jesus Christ call on Him. Let's remember that we need the work of God in our lives all the time, every day!

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I NEED YOUR HELP
IN MY LIFE ALL THE TIME.
I CALL ON YOU!

Why, God?

JUDGES 4-6

DISCOVERING THE WORD

There was much grumbling and complaining in the wilderness among the people of Israel before they even entered into the Promised Land. God was not happy with His nation, so to speak, for casting doubt and complaint. In Judges 6, about 100 years after they entered the Promised Land, they were complaining—again. Why had the LORD allowed them to be defeated by the Midianites? Why were the people of Israel suffering? Simple questions to answer! And yet those questions were answered hundreds of years before when the nation was in the wilderness. God was ignored by Israel! They did not worship Him as LORD. He is a HOLY God who cannot tolerate any deviation from His commandments. The second of which says, “You shall have no other gods before Me” (EXODUS 20:3). Israel had strayed from obeying and following the commands of God. This was the reason they were in the mess they were in. So, how does God solve their problem?

DISCOVERING GOD — JUDGES 6:1-13

— 1 —

The children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, they worshipped other gods.

The protection of the LORD moves on those who love and worship Him alone.

(v. 1-6)

— 2 —

God sent a prophet to speak to Israel when they began to call on Him. The Bible tells us how to live to avoid the devastation of satan’s destruction.

(v. 7-10)

— 3 —

Gideon poured out his complaints and questions to the Angel of the LORD.

Jesus Christ has overcome our opposition; come to Christ in prayer.

(v. 11-13)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

We need to read the Word of God, and pray to the LORD daily. This is how we stay close and keep God at the center of our worship. That is how we become holy.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I PRAISE YOUR HOLY NAME. TEACH ME AND GUIDE ME BY YOUR HOLY SPIRIT TO LIVE TO WORSHIP ONLY YOU.

Gideon's Victory?

JUDGES 7-9

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Gideon was inspired by God's Holy Spirit. He was chasing 135,000 fighting men of Midian. God had selected 300 men with Gideon to pursue and conquer the Midianite forces. After they fought and conquered the Midianites and Amalekites in the valley, Gideon and his men continued in pursuit of the leaders. Passing through the cities of Succoth and Penuel, Gideon asked for food to strengthen his men. This was not a large amount of food, considering the Midianites had just moved through there. It is likely that they did not want to ally themselves with an opposing force like Gideon and give up their agreements with the Midianites. Nevertheless, they paid the cost for siding with the enemy. God was with Gideon and He was moving uniquely. The people of Israel had prayed asking God to help, but these two cities wanted to remain as peaceful as possible in the rage of conflict. They had no idea that faith in God's move was a big part of their future.

DISCOVERING GOD – JUDGES 8:1-12

– 1 –

Gideon had the skill to articulate his words carefully with the tribe of Ephraim. We should choose our words wisely when responding to others.
(v. 1-3)

– 2 –

Gideon spoke directly and harshly to the men of Succoth and Penuel, when they denied him food. We should be direct and honest in our responses about God. (v. 4-9)

– 3 –

Gideon had victory because God had blessed him. Our victory comes from the holiness of God, through the Lord Jesus Christ.
(v. 10-12)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Ultimate victory comes to us through Christ Jesus. The LORD teaches that we must surrender ourselves and let His Spirit lead us through conflict. We are in a spiritual war, which manifests in the physical world. We must keep our sights set on Him who redeemed us, not the conflict itself.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO SUCCEED
IN ALL MY CONFLICTS BY
GIVING THEM TO YOU.**

Distressed

JUDGES 10–13

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Times of great problems and distress don't just come on us for no reason. Sin is the greatest dark force in our world. It causes tremendous problems. God never desires that any should perish by sin, but in His clear and unmistakable view of the future, He knew that we would fall and fail in our original purpose. Jesus Christ is the only way to provide a remedy for our distress. God gave His only begotten Son so that we would have the opportunity to come back to Him, ask forgiveness for our sins, and restore us to God. This is the ultimate and only way we can deal with the problem of personal sin. Yet, the culture of sin and the way that evil has made its way into our society is unspeakably real. The people of Israel were lost in the darkness of sin, too, during the time of the judges, roughly 1200–1100 BC. There were thirteen judges who ruled before Samuel, before the first king was anointed.

DISCOVERING GOD – JUDGES 10:1–9

– 1 –

Tola was called by God to lead the people of Israel for twenty-three years.

There is spiritual and political leadership that God anoints for a time.

(v. 1–2)

– 2 –

Following Tola's death, Jair rose up to lead Israel for twenty-two years.

God appoints leaders and families in His time, for His plan and purpose.

(v. 3–5)

– 3 –

Israel forgot their God and served other gods. God is

revealed to every generation. Each generation must choose who they will serve.

(v. 6–9)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The God of the Bible is a God of victory, compassion, and love. The gods of demonic origin are fallen angels who have lost their place and do not serve anyone but themselves. The LORD Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God who gives us divine power, as we submit to Him.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, HELP ME TO SUBMIT TO YOU IN ALL AREAS OF MY LIFE.

Samson's Temper

JUDGES 14-17

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Samson's parents were visited by the Angel of the LORD and told to expect a son. Samson's mother was instructed to be careful what she ate and drank while pregnant because the boy would be a Nazirite to God from birth. The vow of a Nazirite was a consecration to the LORD. Nazirites were obligated to fulfill their vows normally for thirty days, but sometimes sixty or even to a hundred days. During this time a Nazirite was to be separated to God in three ways: (1) He was not to partake of wine or strong drink in any form, (2) He was not to allow his hair to be cut, (3) He was not to come in contact with a dead body. There are a few instances in the Bible where this vow was for life: Samson (**JUDGES 13:4-5**), Samuel (**1 SAMUEL 1:11**), and, potentially, John the Baptist who was also thought to have been a Nazirite for life. The Nazirite vow was so strict that the person who took it understood that their service to the LORD was sacred. They could be of any tribe and were not called by clan or people group. A Nazirite vow was a personal choice, except in the case of Samson, Samuel, and maybe John the Baptist, it was a calling of God.

DISCOVERING GOD – JUDGES 15:1-8

– 1 –

Samson's temper lost him the right to his Philistine wife. Anger will keep us from hearing and understanding God's call and His Word.

(v. 1-3)

– 2 –

Great destruction was caused by Samson's out of control anger. Our anger controls what we think and how we act, if we do not gain control over it.

(v. 4-5)

– 3 –

Destruction follows destruction. Samson's anger was out of control. At the end of Samson's life, he reaped destruction. But God saves us from our fury if we call on Him.

(v. 6-8)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Fury and rage can cause great destruction. It comes from our sin and tends to control us. In sin, we lose self-control. God said in His Word, "... be angry, and do not sin. Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still" (**PSALM 4:4**). Meditating on Scripture with God's Holy Spirit is the best way to control it.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO GROW
SELF-CONTROL IN MY LIFE
THROUGH THE FRUIT OF YOUR
HOLY SPIRIT.**

The Set Up

JUDGES 18–21

DISCOVERING THE WORD

It is interesting to consider who is a true friend and who is your friend for their own benefit. The story in Judges 19 is a harsh one to read about the problems growing in the ancient land of Israel and in the hearts of God's people. We are introduced to a Levite man living in the hill country of Ephraim. His wife had been unfaithful to him and had left to go back to her father's home in Bethlehem. Four months later the man left for Bethlehem to gather his wife and bring her back to their home. We, as the readers, quickly realize that these were very lawless times. Judges 19 is the set up for one of the most brutal and savage sins in ancient times. Israel kept cycling in and out of sinful behaviour, and their behaviour gradually became worse and worse. The brutality was not conducted by one man or even a set of men but by many in the city of Gibeah—an Israelite city! This was a place where God's people lived—a space where sin was not expected to be.

DISCOVERING GOD – JUDGES 19:1–21

– 1 –

Sin is secretive and seems sensible. God tells us in His Word to run from sin through the power of God's Holy Spirit.
(v. 1–4)

– 2 –

Sin is set in our culture to be normal and cordial, but it is deadly. God tells us in His Word that sin works to destroy us.
(v. 5–9)

– 3 –

There is no human help to protect us from sin. The Holy Spirit of God is our protection. The reason we come to Christ, is because He came to us first!
(v. 10–21)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

It can be easy to fall into sin unknowingly. The psalmist wrote it well, “Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You” (PSALM 119:11). Jesus Christ helps us through His Holy Spirit to avoid sin. We must follow Christ and run away from sin.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I NEED YOU IN MY LIFE ALL THE TIME, EVERY DAY.

Faithful Ruth

RUTH 1-4

DISCOVERING THE WORD

The book of Ruth takes place during the time of the judges when violations of God's law were the norm. And while this book is only four chapters long, it holds amazing examples of kindness, faith, and patience during a deep and dark time in Israel's history. Ruth is the story about a foreign woman who makes herself a part of God's people through her deep convictions and decisions. We learn about an Israelite family who moves from their home in Bethlehem to the land of Moab because of a famine in the land. Naomi, her husband, and their two sons build a life in Moab. Each of the sons marry Moabite women—Orpah and Ruth. In the course of time, both sons and their father die, leaving the three women widows. Left heartbroken to make all future decisions, Naomi decides to return to Bethlehem and release Orpah and Ruth back to their Moabite families. In unyieldingly determination, however, Ruth chooses to faithfully stay with Naomi, regardless of her fate. God has amazing plans for Ruth! This Moabite woman was to become the ancestor of David and Jesus.

DISCOVERING GOD – RUTH 3:1-11

– 1 –

Naomi sent Ruth to Boaz in order to proposition him to be his wife, in accordance with the Law. God's will always follows His laws.

(v. 1-5)

– 2 –

Ruth did exactly as Naomi told her, following God's law. When we follow what the LORD commands, He moves on our behalf.

(v. 6-8)

– 3 –

Ruth's reputation followed her in all she did.

When we faithfully follow Christ, our lives we will stand out to those around us as a reflection of Him.

(v. 9-11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

We must always work to follow the LORD. Our reputation is not simply about being a good person, it is about following the LORD Jesus Christ in our life. And if we do that, everything we do and all that we say will lead us in righteousness.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I MUST WORK TO FOLLOW YOUR WORD IN ALL MY LIFE.

Good and Evil

PSALMS 36–38

DISCOVERING THE WORD

The concept of good and evil seem reasonably easy to define but the truth is that evil can often disguise itself as good. Psalms 36-38 are filled with teachings to help us properly and wisely distinguish between what is good and what is evil. Psalm 36 says that there is one thing missing from the evil in heart, "...there is no fear of God" (v.1). In Psalm 37, we are given instruction in wisdom. One example from Psalm 37:3 reads, "Trust in the LORD and do good, dwell in the land and on His faithfulness." We learn that what we think is good is not always good. Yes, we must trust in the LORD to help us to do good that it may not become evil. Every decision we make leads us to do what is right or wrong. The Holy Spirit of God will help us to make our decisions rightly and then follow those decisions with correct or righteous living. As we read these Psalms today, let's consider what they say and how God has placed them in His Word so that we can learn and understand.

DISCOVERING GOD — PSALM 36:1–12

– 1 –

We learn that pride is the main deviation toward evil in our lives. There is no way we can succeed when we base ourselves on pride instead of truth.

(v. 1–4)

– 2 –

We learn that when we trust in the LORD and His greatness, we are always kept safe from destructive thinking. The LORD prepares our thinking when we truly worship Him. (v. 5–8)

– 3 –

God keeps us from pride when we trust in Him.

The truth is, we are sinners; God is Holy, and when we worship Him He makes us holy.

(v. 9–12)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

There is a great mistake in the way modern business and society think. They believe that they can make a difference in culture and company without God. But we must always remember any goodness comes from God. God is good. We must worship Him and call on His name alone.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I DESIRE GOOD THINGS IN MY LIFE, SO I DESIRE YOUR WORK IN MY LIFE.

Hannah's Song

1 SAMUEL 1-4

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Hannah is an outstanding example of how God hears and preserves us in times of difficulty. The second wife of Elkanah, she had no children because she was barren. Each year the family would go to Shiloh to worship and sacrifice to God, and each year Peninnah, Elkanah's other wife, would take the opportunity to tease Hannah to deeply hurt her because she had no children. After the usual teasing, one year Hannah cried and would not eat. She chose instead to go the Tabernacle where she cried and offered up a prayer in the presence of the LORD. Eli the priest thought she was drunk and rebuked her, but Hannah defended her position and prayerful request to God in that moment. Hearing her, Eli blessed Hannah in the name of the LORD. In time, Hannah became pregnant and named her son Samuel. When Samuel was weaned, Hannah returned to Shiloh and as promised to God, gave her son into the service of the LORD. Samuel became the fourteenth and final judge of Israel, after Eli (1 SAMUEL 4:18). As a climax to her personal covenant with God, the Bible says that Hannah gave birth to three sons and two daughters (1 SAMUEL 2:21). Praise the LORD!

DISCOVERING GOD – 1 SAMUEL 2:1-10

– 1 –

Everything that happens is because of God's Word.

Always has been, always will be. God is sovereign over all.

(v. 1-3)

– 2 –

God gives us the foundation for our success. The LORD

prepares us for the future, even if it is troubled.

(v. 4-8)

– 3 –

The anointing of God is what keeps us from final failure. We should remember

to praise the LORD at all times—through both good and bad.

(v. 9-10)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God is the defender of those who believe and follow the LORD Jesus. That does not mean we will live without trouble, but it does mean we are protected for our future where all our troubles will be confronted with His righteousness.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, IT IS IMPORTANT FOR ME TO ALWAYS PRAISE YOU. HELP ME TO DO THAT, NO MATTER WHAT I'M FEELING.

Who Is God?

1 SAMUEL 5-9

DISCOVERING THE WORD

The Philistines began to threaten and ultimately conquer Israel during the days of the judges, in about 1200 BC. This would be the last period of time that Israel would be governed by judges. Samuel, Hannah's firstborn son, was the last judge of Israel. Now Israel had fought against the Philistines and failed several times, but this time they assured themselves that if they took the Ark of God (their sacred weapon) into battle with them, it would turn the tide, and they would defeat the Philistines. But they were mistaken, deeply mistaken. The Ark was captured by the Philistines. For seven months, however, the hand of the LORD was heavy on the Philistines with a plague of tumors and destruction. They could not take it anymore! They wanted to give the Ark back. But how? Consulting with their priests and diviners they came up with an idea—that is what we read about today in 1 Samuel 6.

DISCOVERING GOD – 1 SAMUEL 6:1-9

– 1 –

The Philistines asked their priests and diviners for advice on how to return the Ark of God. The spiritual world is real and divided. When we give our lives to Christ, we are on the winning side!

(v. 1-4)

– 2 –

God set examples for the world with the plagues of Egypt. When we serve the LORD Jesus Christ, we are serving the truth.

(v. 5-6)

– 3 –

God showed the Philistines it was His hand that had troubled them. The LORD teaches us the difference between good and evil. We should listen to Him always.

(v. 7-9)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

It is God alone who created the world and controls the powers of the universe and beyond. The LORD speaks to our souls through the physical world because He loves us deeply. He loves the whole world (JOHN 3:16).

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I PRAISE YOUR
HOLY AND MAJESTIC NAME.
THANK YOU FOR GIVING
ME LIFE!**

The First Test of Saul

1 SAMUEL 10-13

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Saul was the first man anointed to be king of Israel by Samuel, the fourteenth judge of Israel. Saul was from the tribe of Benjamin. The Bible describes him as being an impressive young man, handsome and standing a head taller than anyone else (1 SAMUEL 9:2). Such characteristics were certainly desirable leadership qualities, according to human values. Saul seemed a little hesitant to take the role of Israel's king at first, but he would soon prove otherwise. Saul's first real test as king was with the deliverance of Jabesh Gilead, an Israelite territory. The Ammonites were a violent and harsh people who were dominating the land at that time. They came to Jabesh Gilead and laid up a siege against them, and the men there asked to make a treaty with them. But the Ammonite's answer to their offer was to make a treaty only after they would gouge out everyone's right eye! The men asked for seven days to send messengers into Israel to see if anyone would come and save them. If no one would answer the call, they would submit.

DISCOVERING GOD — 1 SAMUEL 11:1-11

— 1 —

The enemy tries to stifle us by limiting our abilities.

Knowing that we are weak, God brings healing; God makes us strong.

(v. 1-3)

— 2 —

The Spirit of God sets our emotions in the right direction. We must do our best to stay in the Word of God daily, so the LORD can manage our emotions.

(v. 4-6)

— 3 —

God used King Saul and the men of Israel to defeat the Ammonites. When we trust and depend on God's deliverance, the LORD moves in to help us.

(v. 7-11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The LORD always responds to those who call on His name. The LORD is the all-powerful, Almighty God. He has defeated satan. Praise the LORD!

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I NEED YOUR POWER AND STRENGTH TO SURVIVE MY LIFE. LORD JESUS CHRIST HELP ME TODAY.

Samuel's Cry

1 SAMUEL 14–17

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Samuel was distressed when the elders of Israel insisted that he appoint a king, rather than another judge, to rule over them like the other nations had. Deeply offended with their demand, Samuel brought it to the LORD in prayer. God consoled Samuel and assured him that the people were not rejecting him but God Himself as their King. The LORD also told Samuel to warn the people about the high cost that would come to them with a kingship. They heard the words, but they wanted a king and would take whatever would come. In 1 Samuel 15, Saul must realize that his power and purpose was in God's anointing—that Israel was God's people and not his. And the instructions that Samuel was giving him about the destruction of the Amalekites were divine and needed to be followed exactly. But Saul chose not to follow God's commands fully and even tried to make excuses for his disobedience. Saul's empty regret and half-hearted repentance that came too late, not only brought an end to Samuel's endorsement of him as king, but God took the kingship of Israel away from him.

DISCOVERING GOD — 1 SAMUEL 15:1–11

– 1 –

God gave clear instructions for Saul to obey when dealing with the Amalekites.

God's Word always gives us clear instructions.

(v. 1–3)

– 2 –

Saul warned the Kenites to leave because God's judgment was coming.

God is clear and direct in His Word on how we can avoid His judgment.

(v. 4–6)

– 3 –

Saul disobeyed God and did not complete the task before him. The LORD looks for obedience over sacrifice to follow Him.

(v. 7–11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

One of the things we learn when reading the stories of Saul and David, is how God sees all our motivation and our minds. We come to Jesus Christ so that He can change us—and He does as we let Him.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, OPEN MY HEART AND MY MIND TO FOLLOW YOU.
HOLY SPIRIT COME INTO MY LIFE AND TAKE CONTROL.

Saul's Jealousy

1 SAMUEL 18-20

DISCOVERING THE WORD

David was having great success with the army, no matter where King Saul would send him. So Saul made David head of the army. The people loved David, he was their warrior hero. Even the king's son, Jonathan, gave David his military tunic, sword, bow, and belt. When warriors would return from battle it was common for the women to come out dancing and singing to celebrate military victories. As David would return from battle, the songs of the women were not only praising Saul but less so than the great achievements of David. Whatever the intent of the women was, Saul began to resent their songs, and the Bible tells us, "Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him..." (1 SAMUEL 18:8). This was the beginning of Saul's jealous watch over David. Keeping a close eye on him, Saul let this heart condition of jealousy fester and develop, changing the course of his future as Israel's king.

DISCOVERING GOD – 1 SAMUEL 18:1-9

– 1 –

Jonathan recognized God's leadership in David and became his life-long friend.

There are people God brings to us as life-long friends.

(v. 1-4)

– 2 –

Through David, God was showing Israel the power they had through His called leadership. Leadership in

God's Kingdom is not about our personal desire, but about God's will. (v. 5-7)

– 3 –

Saul was jealous of all the success David had; the LORD was with David.

The LORD builds His Kingdom and not ours.

(v. 8-9)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

There is a temptation to elevate the buildup of power in people and things over the name of God. But we must always remember that Christ is LORD, He is our strength and our salvation. Let's come into the presence of the LORD to worship and bow at His feet, to love and serve Him as we build His Kingdom and not our own.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I WANT TO FOLLOW YOU WITH MY LIFE. HELP ME NEVER TO RUN AHEAD OF YOU.

Lost and Confused

1 SAMUEL 21–24

DISCOVERING THE WORD

David was running from King Saul. He was attempting to build God's Kingdom while God's men were hunting his life. David was in a kind of moral vacuum—he had no reference for what was good or evil, other than his own conscience. The lines were moved all over the human spectrum. Only the LORD had the right idea for what was truly good and evil. With Saul's growing paranoia, David was forced to move his father and mother into the care of the king of Moab, the enemy, as he stayed in the stronghold. For all intents and purposes, this seemed to be a horrible time to be in God's favor. Yet it was the best time for David to follow God. Our understanding of right and wrong can easily drift or sway when we enter a time of great distress or darkness. We must hold fast to the goodness of God above all else and find refuge in our LORD and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

DISCOVERING GOD — 1 SAMUEL 22:1–10

– 1 –

Men lost in the society of confusion gathered around David as their leader. God is always right; we are called to follow Him.
(v. 1–2)

– 2 –

David took his father and family out of Israel to Moab. Sometimes God calls us to do the unusual.
(v. 3–5)

– 3 –

The chase was on! Saul began to pursue David, instead of Israel's enemies. The LORD will always lead us, but the enemy tries to destroy us.
(v. 6–10)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

There are many in this world who are lost and confused. But the LORD has called each of us to build His Kingdom through first loving Him, then loving and helping others. When we let our lives shine for Christ, others will find Him, too.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I PRAY FOR ALL
PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD
TO KNOW YOU FOR WHO
YOU ARE.**

Who Is God?

PSALMS 31–40

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Who is God? This is one of the most important life questions of all time. The writer of Psalm 39:13 says to God, “Remove Your gaze from me, that I may regain strength, before I go away and am no more.” His point was simple but profound—he was calling on the LORD to remove his own human ideas and replace them with God’s truth—he wanted to be instructed by the LORD Himself. The Psalms are written to give us, the readers, spiritual truths which force us to think carefully about the nature of God. That is why the Bible explains to us that we need to meditate on them—something few seem to consider—our modern demands are to learn and understand God *quickly*. But for those who trust in God, we have come to realize that our lives hold meaning and significance that is not tied to our earthly achievements. Those things, no matter how great, will fade away with time, but God is eternal, with Him is all wisdom, hope, and forgiveness.

DISCOVERING GOD — PSALM 39:1–13

– 1 –

Our life is sacred but short.

God has given us eternal life, when we call on His name and surrender to Him as LORD.

(v. 1–5)

– 2 –

The things of the earth will pass away.

We should seek the work of the LORD in our lives, He is our hope.

(v. 6–7)

– 3 –

God will reward us if we yield to Him.

It is good to pray regularly and ask the LORD for His correction and help.

(v. 8–13)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

As we read the Psalms, we are reminded that only God can give us meaning for eternity. Our lives should be lived for the LORD every day, in every way. God’s Holy Spirit helps us to follow Him.

TODAY’S PRAYER

**LORD, I NEED YOU IN MY LIFE
EVERY DAY, IN EVERY WAY.**

David's Test

1 SAMUEL 25-28

DISCOVERING THE WORD

David was a man of God, anointed by God as king, and followed the will of God throughout his life. The Bible tells us that David was a man after God's own heart. That doesn't mean that he was perfect, indeed, he made many mistakes! But David knew how to follow the LORD. This is something I need to learn. How can we successfully follow the LORD? David was tested several times before he was named king of Israel. It is as if God needed to let David run through many trials, traps, and tricks to prepare him for governing ancient Israel. In 1 Samuel 26, we discover the temptations which surrounded David and his ability to overcome them. We see that David had a second chance to destroy King Saul, the one who was attempting to kill him! But David saw something else that even Saul did not. David understood that Saul had been anointed by Samuel, he was God's king. "The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD's anointed" (1 SAMUEL 26:11). It would be God who would switch the kingly leadership, not David himself.

DISCOVERING GOD — 1 SAMUEL 26:1-12

— 1 —

David becomes aware that Saul, who wants to kill him, is nearby. The LORD has told us that we will have trouble in this life.

(v. 1-4)

— 2 —

There are some who recognize God's authority and some who do not. We should come to God in prayer for His help and direction on how to handle our trouble.

(v. 5-9)

— 3 —

David was led by the Spirit of God, and did not move when he could have.

Our lives should be set to follow the LORD, not on our own understanding.

(v. 10-12)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

When we are confronted with struggles, remember that we must move forward as the LORD has instructed and continues to instruct us. Any move outside of that is a potential violation of God's plan (PROVERBS 3:5-8).

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO LEARN
HOW TO LISTEN TO YOUR
VOICE AND FOLLOW YOUR
LEAD. THANK YOU, LORD.**

.....

Thanks for your support!

Bible Discovery is a family-run international ministry invested in educating, edifying and encouraging the believer to actively explore God's Word. Your donations allow us to provide these resources to people around the world.

EQUIP YOUR CHURCH Our mission is to support local churches. Equip your small group, congregation or family at BibleDiscoveryTv.com/church365.

SUPPORT THE MINISTRY Thanks to your generous donations, we are able provide free content to spread the Gospel. Visit BibleDiscoveryTv.com/donate to support our ministry today.

GIFT THE GUIDE If you have friends or family who would love a copy of the Bible Discovery Guide, sign them up today at BibleDiscoveryGuide.com.

RENEW YOUR SUPPORT A special thank you to all of our partners whose donations make this Guide possible. Join us for a brand-new year of discovery when you give a donation of any amount at BibleDiscoveryTv.com/donate.

MINISTRY UPDATES & PRAYER REQUESTS
Stay up-to-date with the latest news and prayer requests by subscribing to our email list on BibleDiscoveryTv.com.

COMPANION RESOURCES Further your study or share your learning with others with digital downloads, comprehensive study tools and deeper commentary designed to enrich your journey through the Word of God. Visit BibleDiscoveryTv.com today.



CANADA



Bible Discovery
PO Box 456
Orangeville, ON
L9W 5G2
t +1 519-940-8338

USA

Bible Discovery
PO Box 150
Murrysville, PA
15668-0150
t +1 724-733-8336

UK

t 8000-8689-94

 /BibleDiscoveryTV
 /BibleDiscoverTV
 /BibleDiscoveryTV
 /BibleDiscoveryTV



BIBLE
DISCOVERY



From Genesis to Revelation in one year, the Bible Discovery Guide is a daily study companion to encourage and supplement the reading of God's Word. Each daily devotional provides theological insights and practical application to equip and strengthen your faith.



For more great resources to complement this Guide,
please visit us online at

BIBLEDISCOVERYTV.COM

