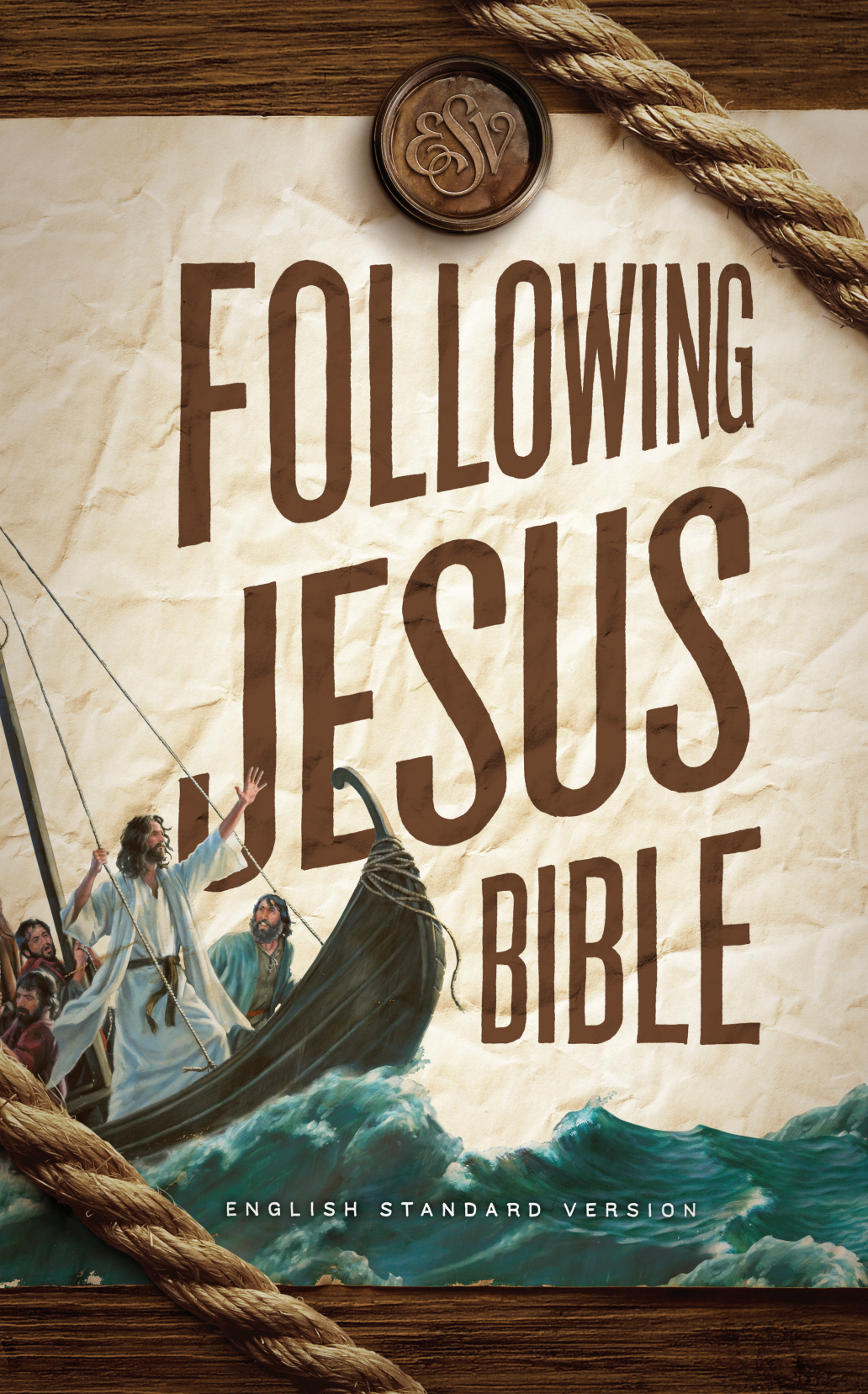
ESV
FOLLOWING JESUS BIBLE
ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION



FOLLOWING JESUS BIBLE

ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION



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The ESV Bible is free online and on mobile devices everywhere worldwide, including a selection of free Bible resources, at esv.org.

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ABOUT THE BIBLE

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16–17)

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

The Bible is the Word of God. It shows us what he is like, what he has done, and what he wants us to do. It tells us about ourselves—about how God made us and about how sin and death came into the world. Most of all, it tells us about his Son Jesus, who came to suffer and die on the cross in order to win the forgiveness of our sins and eternal life in heaven with God.

HOW WAS THE BIBLE WRITTEN?

The simplest answer is this: God wrote the Bible. But he wrote it through humans, even allowing their own unique personalities to shine through in their writing. We can trust that God worked in the writers so that they wrote down what is really God's Word.

WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE WHO WROTE THE BIBLE?

The people who wrote the Bible lived a long time ago. Some, like Moses, lived as long as 3,500 years ago. Others, like John, lived about 2,000 years ago. They were people just like we are—people who had doubts, people who did some bad things and some good things. God used them to write down words that tell us about him and his love for us. In one way or another, every biblical author is telling us about Jesus—either preparing for him (the Old Testament) or telling us about him (the New Testament).

WHY IS THE BIBLE IMPORTANT FOR ME?

The Bible is the way God talks to you and lets you know who he really is. The Bible is more than just a bunch of old stories about some people who lived a long time ago. It is God's love letter to you, assuring you that he is interested in you and will take care of you every day.

HOW IS THE BIBLE ORGANIZED?

The Bible is divided into two parts—the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Testaments are divided into individual books—66 books to be exact! Each book is divided into numbered chapters. Each chapter is divided into numbered verses. You can find a passage if you know the name of the book, the chapter number, and the verse number.

We've divided the books into smaller groups to make it easy for you to find your way around in the *ESV Following Jesus Bible*.

The Old Testament contains the following types of books:

The Books of Moses
The Books of History
The Books of Wisdom and Poetry
The Books of the Prophets

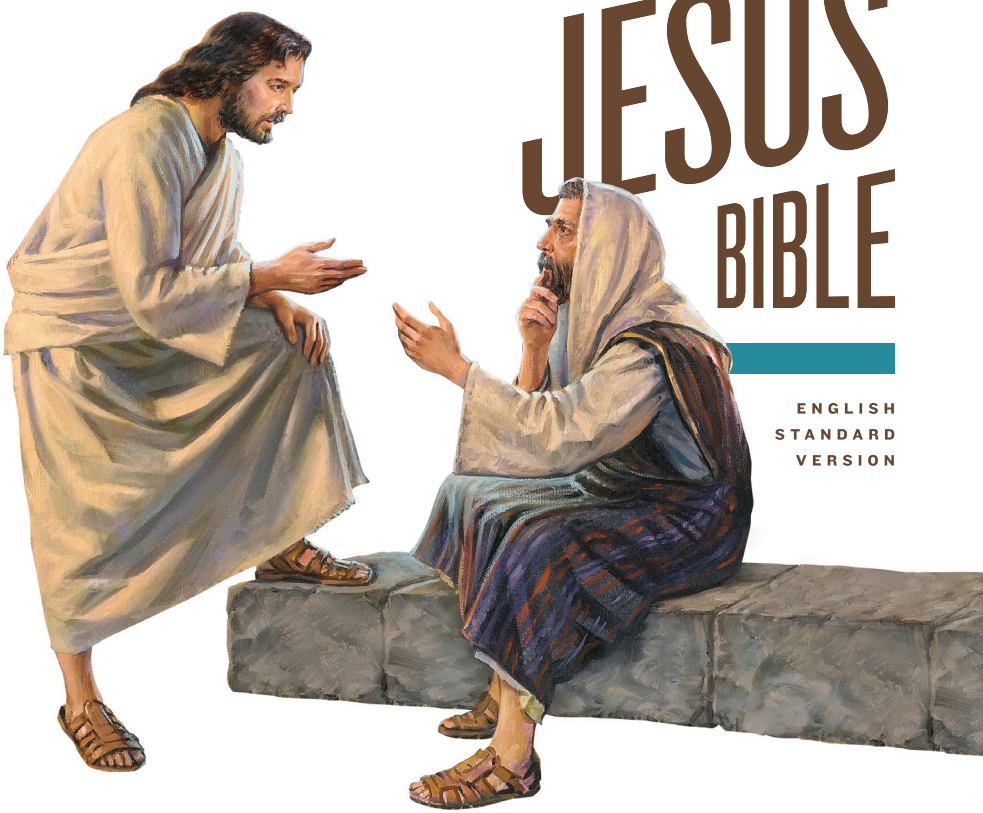
The New Testament contains the following types of books:

The Gospels and Acts
The Epistles (letters)

WELCOME TO THE

FOLLOWING JESUS BIBLE

ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION

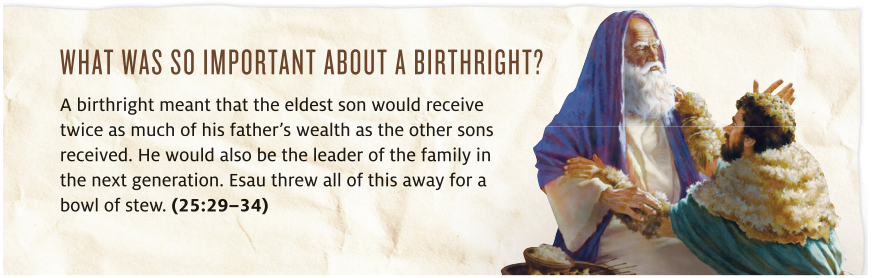


The great thing about this Bible—and any Bible!—is that you never outgrow it. In fact, it's what makes you grow spiritually. It's God's Word that the Holy Spirit uses to build you up in faith, to draw you closer to Jesus, your Savior.

That's what the apostle Paul told Timothy, and it means that the whole Bible is God speaking to you—for lots of important reasons.

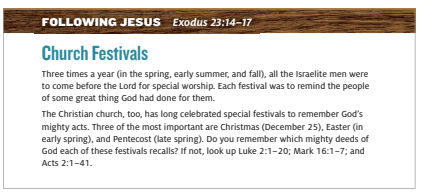
The *ESV Following Jesus Bible* is full of features designed to introduce you to the wonderful messages and promises in God's Word. ***Check them out!***

FEATURES YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT



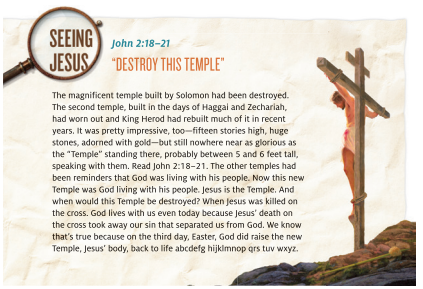
W QUESTIONS

Look for these features to get the facts on the Who, What, Where, When, and Why of God's Word and the story of your salvation from sin, death, and the devil. Find out about the real people, places, and life in Bible times.



FOLLOWING JESUS

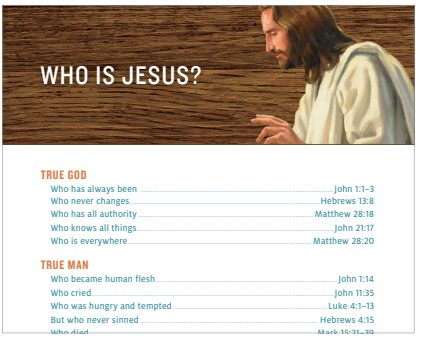
Every word in the Bible is loaded with meaning for everyone, but the Following Jesus features will help you understand what certain passages mean for you personally. Check out these features to learn more about God's Word and what following Jesus means for you!



SEEING JESUS

As you read through your *ESV Following Jesus Bible*, you will find many verses that remind you that Jesus' death on the cross, and rising from the grave, connects you back to God—which gives you forgiveness, life, and salvation.

In many places, we've provided a brief note explaining how we see Jesus in a particular passage. Be sure to read the articles that tell all about these ways that we see Jesus!



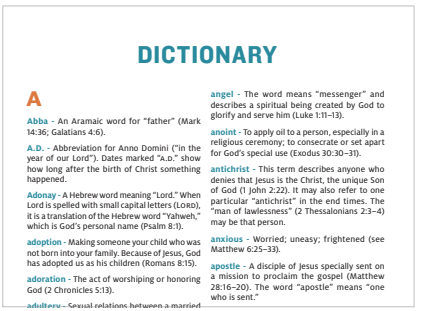
ARTICLES AND CHARTS

This Bible is loaded with great information to help you better understand God's Word for your life. You will find these colorful pages throughout the Bible, between the Testaments, and between books or chapters of the Bible.



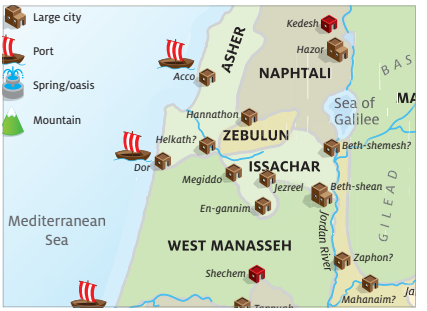
SECTION AND BOOK INTRODUCTIONS

We've divided the Bible into six sections. The beginning of each section includes information about the books in that section. Likewise, there is an introduction on the first page of each book. These introduction pages will give you the big picture on the contents of that book: the author, date, main themes, and events.



DICTIONARY

In the back of the *ESV Following Jesus Bible* you will find a handy Dictionary. These pages will help you with words in the Bible that you might not know.



TIMELINES AND MAPS

The events recorded in God's Word are real. Look at the timelines to see the history of your salvation. Colorful maps help you see where these events took place and where those locations are found in the world today. Both are located together in the back of this Bible.

WHERE TO START?

Don't worry about where to start. Start anywhere. Go through the Bible and see what features interest you. Then begin reading and exploring both the features and the Bible text. Use your *ESV Following Jesus Bible* every day to "continue in what you have learned" about Jesus (2 Timothy 3:14)! If you ever have any questions or comments about this Bible, please contact us and let us know!

SEEING JESUS

What's this whole book about? What connects it all together? How's it connected to me?

The Bible is a magnificent story about God's love for us. The heavenly Father loves you very much and loves caring for you in all the best ways. But *it could have been a very short story!*

God loves you and wants you to be with him forever in the new earth.

That's why he created your first parents, Adam and Eve. He gave them a beautiful place to live and delicious things to eat and perfect friendship with each other, just as he wants to give us everything that's really good for us—including a heavenly home and lots of good things here, like tasty food, friends, and family.

But our first parents sinned. All of a sudden, they remembered only one word from the Lord: *God had told them that if they sinned, they would die.*

Death would have been the end of the story. Then what would they have had? Nothing good! Only death. The problem is that sin separates us from God. See, God is love (1 John 4:8), but he's also holy, without sin (Leviticus 19:2), which means he can't put up with anything sinful. So if we're still in our sin, we've got to be apart from God. *Sin disconnects us from God!*

(Reach your arms way out, far apart. As far apart as your hands are—you see that distance? Sin makes us far apart from God, way farther than your arms are now.)

So. . . if somebody didn't do something about sin, it would have been the end of the story.

If sin still disconnected us from God, we'd be lost forever in hell, where God is never near and no one gets any good things at all. We wouldn't even expect another day of life here on earth—or any of the blessings that make life happy.

But God did do something about sin.

The story of the Bible didn't end with Adam and Eve's sin. Instead, the whole rest of the Bible is the story of how God went about restoring the world through the work of his Son.

The whole Bible points to Jesus!

That's what connects everything in this book, this whole story.

And the cross is how it's all connected to you!

When you trust in Jesus, the cross reconnects you to God. Jesus died on the cross and rose from the grave.

In doing that, he took away the sin that separated you from God. His death and resurrection brought you back together with God. We say it "reconciled" us to God, made us friends with God again.

(Still have your arms spread out wide? Bring them back together, one hand against the other, with a good loud pop. That's how close God is with you now, now that sin's all gone.)

That means you get to live with God forever in the new earth. But that's not all.

Now, once you're connected to God again by Jesus' death and resurrection, there's nothing to keep him from giving you ALL the good things he wants you to have!

That's the rest of your story!

It's all about Jesus! Because of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, you get to go to heaven.



But you also know that God is with you, reconnected with you, when you're nervous about a test or sad when kids are mean to you. And because the cross has reconnected you to God, you know God is with you to comfort you when you get left out or get teased. And love from Mom or Dad comes from Jesus' love in dying for them. We get all of these good things because Jesus has reconciled and reconnected us to God.

Since you're back together with God, he now gives you everything that's truly good for you! When you hear your pastor talk about Jesus' death and resurrection, think: "Hey, that means God will take care of me all the time, every second of every day."

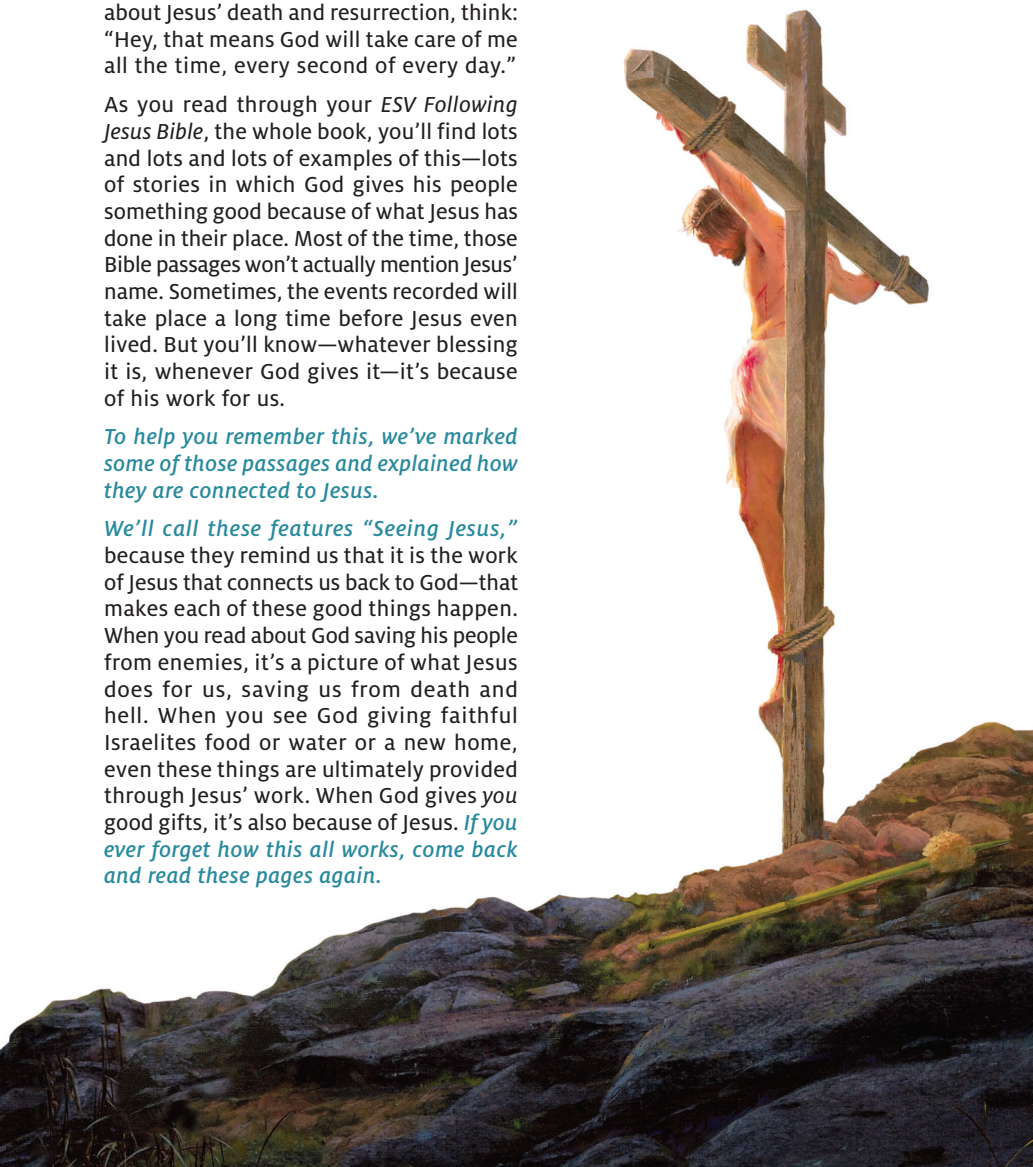
As you read through your *ESV Following Jesus Bible*, the whole book, you'll find lots and lots and lots of examples of this—lots of stories in which God gives his people something good because of what Jesus has done in their place. Most of the time, those Bible passages won't actually mention Jesus' name. Sometimes, the events recorded will take place a long time before Jesus even lived. But you'll know—whatever blessing it is, whenever God gives it—it's because of his work for us.

To help you remember this, we've marked some of those passages and explained how they are connected to Jesus.

We'll call these features "Seeing Jesus," because they remind us that it is the work of Jesus that connects us back to God—that makes each of these good things happen. When you read about God saving his people from enemies, it's a picture of what Jesus does for us, saving us from death and hell. When you see God giving faithful Israelites food or water or a new home, even these things are ultimately provided through Jesus' work. When God gives *you* good gifts, it's also because of Jesus. *If you ever forget how this all works, come back and read these pages again.*

Want to check out a few Seeing Jesus features right now? Turn to Genesis 3:15; Exodus 12:1–13; Psalm 22:1–5; Isaiah 40:1–2; John 10:11–18; and Revelation 7:9–17. These are just a small sample of the places you'll see Jesus all through your *Following Jesus Bible.*

You have every good thing because the saving work of Jesus connects you to God!



PREFACE

THE BIBLE

The Bible is God's personal Word to us. In the Bible, God tells us how he made the world and why we are here. He tells us that his eternal Son, Jesus Christ, died on the cross for our sins and was raised from the dead, and that, because of this, we can live forever in heaven with him. Because God is always good and truthful, his written Word, the Bible, is worthy of our complete confidence and trust.

ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS OF THE BIBLE

God's message to us was recorded in the Bible between 2,000 and 3,500 years ago. The Bible was not originally written in English, but in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. Since most of us today do not know these languages, God has enabled people around the world to translate his written Word into thousands of different languages. In 1526, William Tyndale became the first person to translate the New Testament from the original Greek into English. The most famous English translation of the Bible, the King James Version, was published in England in 1611. For many years, it was the Bible that most English-speaking people read. Millions of people still read it today.

But as time has passed, the English language has changed. Various words and phrases in the King James Version have become harder to understand. So through the years several new translations have been made. These include the English Revised Version (1885), the American Standard Version (1901), and the Revised Standard Version (1952; 1971). The English Standard Version (ESV) Bible is a part of this historic tradition of Bible translation.

Translating from one language to another is never easy. Bible translators must know Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. They need good English writing skills. They must be able to choose words that people of all ages will understand. They must be humble enough to let other translators correct their work. No one is able to do this work perfectly. Translators can only try their best to be faithful to God's Word and helpful to readers. There are two main ways most of them do this.

Some Bible translators use a "thought-for-thought" method of translation. They read the Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek and decide how to put the basic thoughts into English words. They are generally not concerned with keeping the original order of the sentence. They also may leave out words they don't think are needed for understanding a thought. Sometimes they try to make long sentences easier to understand by dividing them into several shorter sentences.

Other translators use a "word-for-word" translation method. They translate the Bible in a way that reflects every single word in the original Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek texts as transparently as possible. They also translate sentences in a way that pays greater attention to the order in which they were originally written. Until recent times, this was the way most English Bible translations were done. The ESV is this kind of translation—a "word-for-word" translation—which we believe is the best way to show *what* the Bible says and *how* it says it.

Sometimes this may mean you will read words that you'll see only in the Bible or hear in church—words like "justification" and "sanctification." Or you will read words that mean something different in the Bible than in current English. The word "unclean" is an example of this. Although such words may be unfamiliar, they are important words that are worth learning.

Bible translators also want readers to come to know and love the Bible as much as they do, so while trying to be as accurate as possible in their work, they also try to use English words that are as interesting and beautiful as the Bible's original Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek words.

There are a couple of words, in particular, that you should know about as a Bible reader. You will often find the Old and New Testament authors using the word "Behold!" This is a helpful word because it means something like "Pay careful attention to the words that come next!" It helps us read more carefully.

Another word you should know about is one of the Bible's names for God. The Old Testament authors used three different Hebrew words to describe God. These are translated as "God," "Lord" (spelled the way we usually spell it), or "LORD" (spelled with small capital letters). The last one translates God's personal name. He revealed this name to Moses in Exodus 3:14.

SPECIAL NOTES IN THE ESV BIBLE

As you read the ESV Bible, you will often see a number following a word, which will call your attention to a note at the bottom of the page. For instance, at Genesis 1:26, when you read, "Let us make man[1] . . .", the number 1 invites you to read note 1 at the bottom of the page. These notes will help you in various ways.

For example, some things you read may make you think that the Bible doesn't say very much about women. You will read that God made "man" in his image (Gen. 1:26). In Psalm 1:1, you will read about God making promises to "the man" who serves him. In the New Testament you will often read about someone addressing a group of people as "brothers" without saying anything about "sisters." Or you will read about promises to "sons" (Rom. 8:14). The notes on these verses will help you see that the Bible is not ignoring girls or women. The note on Genesis 1:26 will tell you that the Hebrew word translated "man" includes both men and women. Notes in the New Testament will show you where the Greek word translated "brothers" includes both "brothers and sisters." The note on Romans 8:14 shows you that "sons" also includes "daughters."

Second, you may be troubled when you see words like "slave," "servant," and "bondservant." You will likely wonder if the Bible approves of the sort of slavery that existed in the United States and other nations in past times and that still exists in some nations today. The Bible condemns such slavery many times, and it often explains how people in these situations should be treated.

As the ESV notes will tell you, the Old Testament uses the Hebrew word *ebed* to describe all sorts of servants. A servant could be someone who agreed to work for someone else for pay, or to repay a debt. In some cases, he might have agreed to work for someone for the rest of his life. A servant could also be someone captured in war and made to serve someone else, or someone sold into slavery. Readers have to pay attention to each situation. In the Old Testament the ESV uses the word "slave" when people were owned by someone else and had little chance of freedom. Otherwise it normally uses the word "servant."

The New Testament uses the Greek word *doulos* (or *sundoulos*) to describe people in the same types of situations. The ESV translates the word as "slave" when someone had little hope of becoming free. It translates the word as "bondservant" when someone could gain freedom by paying a set price or by serving for a set length of time. It translates

the word "servant" when a person simply worked for someone else. As with "man" and "brothers and sisters," the ESV includes notes to help you know which kind of situation you are reading about.

Third, the Bible often uses names that have a special meaning. The names may be those of people or places. The ESV provides notes when the text cannot really be understood unless you know what the name means.

Fourth, the Bible describes several kinds of skin diseases with a word that the ESV translates as "leprosy." The notes let you know that the word does not refer to Hansen's Disease, the type of leprosy most familiar to modern readers.

Fifth, sometimes the ESV translators had to choose between two English words that mean nearly the same thing. Knowing both words may help you understand the verse better. These notes begin with the word "Or" and then give the second possible meaning.

Finally, you will find brackets and special notes at Psalm 145:13, Mark 16:8, and John 7:52. Translators use the oldest and best Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek copies available. Some of these manuscripts include the words in brackets in Psalm 145:13. Most of them leave out Mark 16:9–20 and John 7:53–8:11 or place them somewhere else.

The ESV translators made other decisions about the best manuscripts to use, to translate the Bible from Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek into English. You can read about these translation choices in the *ESV Study Bible* or in the more detailed preface to the standard edition of the ESV. This standard edition of the ESV also includes a fuller set of textual notes. It is available for free online access at esvbible.org.

THE PURPOSE OF THE ESV BIBLE

Many people made the ESV Bible translation possible. We hope this Bible will help you know God by trusting in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Our prayer is, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all" (2 Cor. 13:14).

Soli Deo Gloria!—To God alone be the glory!

The Translation Oversight Committee

THE OLD TESTAMENT



ABOUT THE OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS



BOOKS OF MOSES

The first five books of the Old Testament were written by Moses and are also called the Pentateuch, which means "five books." These books cover the creation of the world and the beginning of the nation of Israel.

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy



BOOKS OF HISTORY

Many more years of Israelite history are covered in the history books of the Bible. Some of the best stories ever written can be found in these books. In them you will see how God was bringing about his promise of salvation for all people.

Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther



BOOKS OF WISDOM AND POETRY

Hebrew poetry was not written exactly like English poetry. It is very beautiful in a different way. The writers used poetry to express many feelings—sadness, happiness, fear, and praise to God for his love and care.

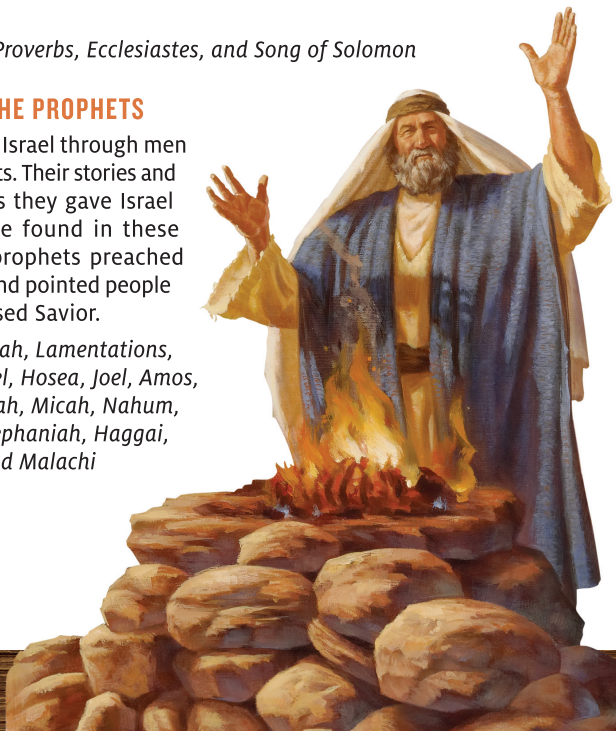
Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon



BOOKS OF THE PROPHETS

God spoke to Israel through men called prophets. Their stories and the messages they gave Israel from God are found in these books. The prophets preached repentance and pointed people to the promised Savior.

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi



THE BOOKS OF MOSES

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

THE BOOKS OF MOSES SHOW

God's law
God's covenant promises

THE BOOKS OF MOSES RECORD

The history of God's people
God's mighty deeds

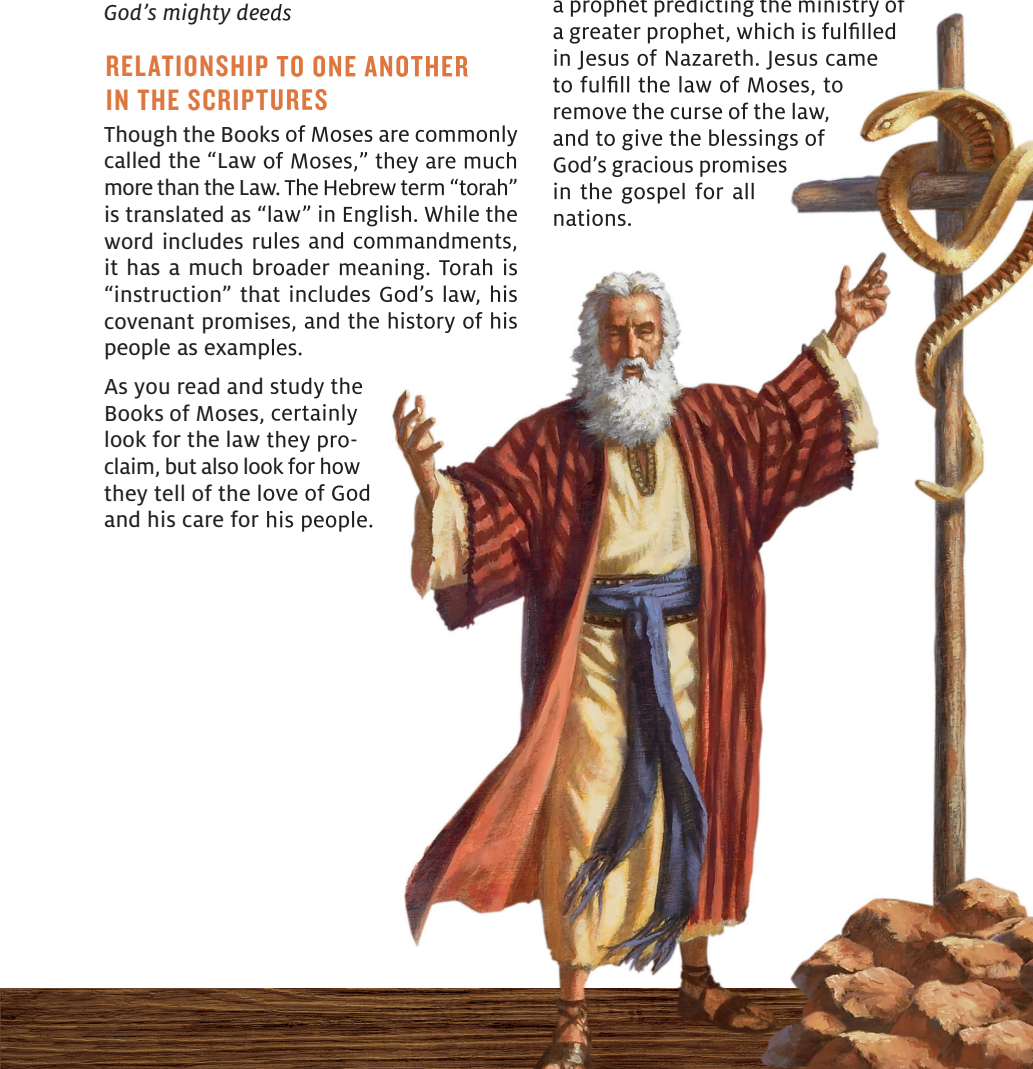
RELATIONSHIP TO ONE ANOTHER IN THE SCRIPTURES

Though the Books of Moses are commonly called the "Law of Moses," they are much more than the Law. The Hebrew term "torah" is translated as "law" in English. While the word includes rules and commandments, it has a much broader meaning. Torah is "instruction" that includes God's law, his covenant promises, and the history of his people as examples.

As you read and study the Books of Moses, certainly look for the law they proclaim, but also look for how they tell of the love of God and his care for his people.

MOSES AND JESUS

At the heart of the Books of Moses is a historical record of God's ways with his people. God teaches them through his law and blesses them through his covenant promises. In these two ways, Moses was a prophet predicting the ministry of a greater prophet, which is fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus came to fulfill the law of Moses, to remove the curse of the law, and to give the blessings of God's gracious promises in the gospel for all nations.





Introduction to

GENESIS

STORIES IN GENESIS

God Creates the Heavens and the Earth ..... Genesis 1–2
Adam and Eve and the Fall into Sin ..... Genesis 2–3
God Promises a Savior ..... Genesis 3
God Saves Noah from the Flood ..... Genesis 6–9
Tower of Babel ..... Genesis 11
Abraham and Sarah ..... Genesis 12–25
Jacob and Esau ..... Genesis 25–36
Joseph and His Brothers ..... Genesis 37–50

AUTHOR As with every book of the Bible, God is really the author. But God the Holy Spirit used human writers to record his words. Moses was the man inspired by God to write Genesis.

DATE Thousands of years before time was carefully recorded, creation and the flood occurred. Events before the time of Abraham (2166 B.C.) cannot be dated.

PLACES Genesis 1–11 happens in Ur, modern-day Iraq. Much of the next part of Genesis (12–36) takes place in the land called Canaan, also known as the Promised Land. It is known today as Israel and Palestine. Other locations mentioned in the rest of Genesis include Egypt and Mount Moriah, which might be located in the modern city of Jerusalem.

PEOPLE There are many important people mentioned in Genesis. We meet Adam and Eve, Noah and his family, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Rachel, and Joseph and his brothers, including Judah.

GOD'S LOVE God created people to be his friends and the universe to be a wonderful home for us. Even before he made people, he knew that we would fall into sin and that it would cost his Son's life to save us. But he made us anyway and gave the promise of the Savior to the very first people.

GOD'S SPECIAL MESSAGES Genesis tells how everything began. God created everything; he continues to rule over all he has made. Because our first parents brought sin into the world, every human since then desperately needs God's forgiveness.

God created the universe and people. The people sinned, and God punished them with a great flood. God spoke to Abraham and gave him and his family special promises.

	c. 2091 B.C.	2026 B.C.	1876 B.C.	1446 B.C.
Creation	Call of Abraham	Isaac marries Rebekah	Jacob goes to Egypt	Exodus



GENESIS

The Creation of the World

1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. **2** The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. **4** And 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. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

6 And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." **7** And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. **8** And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

9 And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. **10** God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

11 And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so. **12** The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. **13** And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

14 And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, **15** and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. **16** And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. **17** And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, **18** to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that

DAYS OF CREATION

On Day	*God Made*	*It Says So In*	*And God*
One	Light; Day and Night	Genesis 1:3–5	Saw that the light was good.
Two	Heaven	Genesis 1:6–8	Called the expanse Heaven.
Three	Earth and Seas; Plants	Genesis 1:9–10; Genesis 1:11–13	Saw that it was good. Saw that it was good.
Four	Sun, Moon, and Stars	Genesis 1:14–19	Saw that it was good.
Five	Sea Creatures and Birds	Genesis 1:20–23	Saw that it was good.
Six	Earth Creatures; Man and Woman	Genesis 1:24–25; Genesis 1:26–31	Saw that it was good. Saw that all he made was very good.
Seven	God Rested	Genesis 2:1–3	Blessed the seventh day and made it holy.

it was good. 19 And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

20 And God said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens." 21 So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 22 And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." 23 And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

24 And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. 25 And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

26 Then God said, "Let us make man[1] in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

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

28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." 29 And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. 30 And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. 31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

The Seventh Day, God Rests

2 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 2 And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. 3 So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

The Creation of Man and Woman

4 These are the generations
of the heavens and the earth when
they were created,
in the day that the LORD[2] God made
the earth and the heavens.

[1] The Hebrew word used here for *man* includes both men and women (see 1:27) and refers to the entire human race (see Preface) [2] The word LORD, when spelled with small capital letters, translates the Hebrew word for God's personal name, *Yahweh* (see Preface)

FOLLOWING JESUS *Genesis 1:1–31*

That's One Big Science Fair Project!

Do you enjoy doing science fair projects? They are a lot of work. They require lots of time and creativity if they are going to result in an award-winning display board. Here was one big science fair project: in the beginning, God made everything—including all those things you study and measure in your projects! In six days, God created weather and electricity and chemicals and gravity and colors. And every animal. And your first parents, Adam and Eve. And he did it just by saying so.

Some people think the Bible's story of creation doesn't make scientific sense. But actually, science would be impossible without God's work of creation. As you look at a mountain, or at a blue sky, or at a racehorse in full stride, or at your own face in the mirror, admire God's spectacular display board!

5 When no bush of the field was yet in
the land and no small plant of the field
had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had
not caused it to rain on the land, and there
was no man to work the ground, 6 and a
mist was going up from the land and was
watering the whole face of the ground—
7 then the LORD God formed the man of
dust from the ground and breathed into
his nostrils the breath of life, and the man
became a living creature. 8 And the LORD
God planted a garden in Eden, in the east,
and there he put the man whom he had
formed. 9 And out of the ground the LORD
God made to spring up every tree that
is pleasant to the sight and good for food.
The tree of life was in the midst of the
garden, and the tree of the knowledge of
good and evil.

10 A river flowed out of Eden to water the
garden, and there it divided and became
four rivers. 11 The name of the first is the
Pishon. It is the one that flowed around
the whole land of Havilah, where there is
gold. 12 And the gold of that land is good;
bdellium and onyx stone are there. 13 The
name of the second river is the Gihon. It is
the one that flowed around the whole land
of Cush. 14 And the name of the third river is
the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And
the fourth river is the Euphrates.

15 The LORD God took the man and put
him in the garden of Eden to work it and
keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded
the man, saying, "You may surely eat of
every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree
of the knowledge of good and evil you shall
not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you
shall surely die."

18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good
that the man should be alone; I will make
him a helper fit for him." 19 Now out of the
ground the LORD God had formed every
beast of the field and every bird of the heav-
ens and brought them to the man to see
what he would call them. And whatever
the man called every living creature, that
was its name. 20 The man gave names to
all livestock and to the birds of the heavens
and to every beast of the field. But for Adam
there was not found a helper fit for him.
21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to
fall upon the man, and while he slept took
one of his ribs and closed up its place with
flesh. 22 And the rib that the LORD God had
taken from the man he made into a woman
and brought her to the man. 23 Then the
man said,

> "This at last is bone of my bones
> and flesh of my flesh;
> she shall be called Woman,
> because she was taken out of Man."[1]

24 Therefore a man shall leave his father
and his mother and hold fast to his wife,
and they shall become one flesh. 25 And
the man and his wife were both naked and
were not ashamed.

The Fall

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than
any other beast of the field that the
LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually
say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the
garden'?" 2 And the woman said to the ser-
pent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees
in the garden, 3 but God said, 'You shall
not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the
midst of the garden, neither shall you touch
it, lest you die.'" 4 But the serpent said to
the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For
God knows that when you eat of it your
eyes will be opened, and you will be like
God, knowing good and evil." 6 So when
the woman saw that the tree was good for
food, and that it was a delight to the eyes,
and that the tree was to be desired to make

[1] The Hebrew words for *woman* (*ishshah*) and *man* (*ish*) sound alike

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD?

To be unique among all God's creatures, made to reflect God's rule, wisdom, and love. Before the fall, Adam and Eve were the perfect image of God. After the fall, this image was broken. Jesus came to earth as a man in the image of God, and those who trust him are being restored into the image of God once more. **(1:26)**

one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." 11 He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" 12 The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." 13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

14 The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.
15 I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel."

16 To the woman he said,

"I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be contrary to your husband,
but he shall rule over you."

17 And to Adam he said,

"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
'You shall not eat of it,'
cursed is the ground because of you;
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.
19 By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return."

20 The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.[1] 21 And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

[1] *Eve* sounds like the Hebrew for *life-giver*

FOLLOWING JESUS *Genesis 2:7, 22*

What about Evolution?

Evolution is a term often used for the idea that all forms of life developed, or "evolved," from lower forms. Evolution doesn't fit with the Bible. Look back at Genesis 1. Notice that the Bible says God did his creating in six days. Each day had an evening and a morning (Genesis 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31). Notice, too, that one kind of plant or animal didn't become a different kind; they reproduced "each according to its kind" (Genesis 1:11–12, 21, 24–25). Most important, see the care God put into making Adam and Eve (Genesis 2:7, 22). They didn't just evolve from some other animal such as the ape. God made them specially, personally, by his own hand.

Isn't it wonderful to know God cares about you and all people so specially? To God, we're not just one more animal. We're his crowning touch on the whole creation!

22 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the
man has become like one of us in know-
ing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out
his hand and take also of the tree of life
and eat, and live forever—" 23 therefore the
LORD God sent him out from the garden of
Eden to work the ground from which he
was taken. 24 He drove out the man, and
at the east of the garden of Eden he placed
the cherubim and a flaming sword that
turned every way to guard the way to the
tree of life.

Cain and Abel

4 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and
she conceived and bore Cain, saying,
"I have gotten[1] a man with the help of the
LORD." 2 And again, she bore his brother
Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep,
and Cain a worker of the ground. 3 In the
course of time Cain brought to the LORD
an offering of the fruit of the ground, 4 and
Abel also brought of the firstborn of his
flock and of their fat portions. And the
LORD had regard for Abel and his offering,
5 but for Cain and his offering he had no
regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face
fell. 6 The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you
angry, and why has your face fallen? 7 If
you do well, will you not be accepted? And
if you do not do well, sin is crouching at
the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but
you must rule over it."

8 Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And
when they were in the field, Cain rose up
against his brother Abel and killed him.
9 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel
your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I
my brother's keeper?" 10 And the LORD said,
"What have you done? The voice of your
brother's blood is crying to me from the
ground. 11 And now you are cursed from
the ground, which has opened its mouth
to receive your brother's blood from your
hand. 12 When you work the ground, it shall
no longer yield to you its strength. You shall
be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth."
13 Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is
greater than I can bear. 14 Behold, you have
driven me today away from the ground, and
from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be
a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and
whoever finds me will kill me." 15 Then the
LORD said to him, "Not so! If anyone kills

[1] *Cain* sounds like the Hebrew for *gotten*

SEEING JESUS

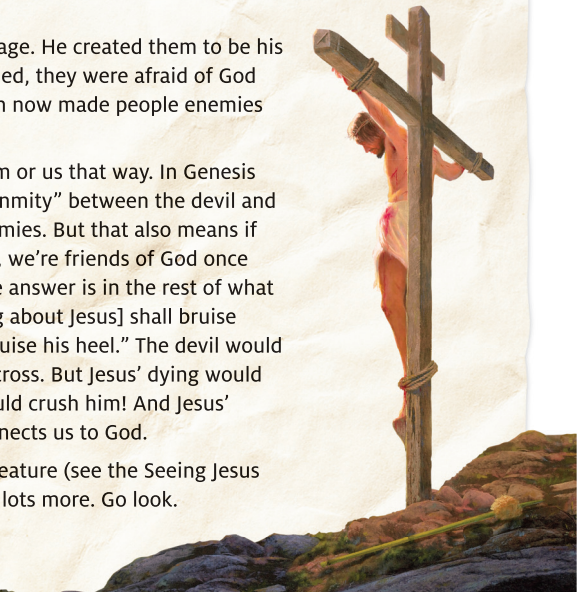
Genesis 3:15

FRIENDS AGAIN—RECONNECTED

God created Adam and Eve in his image. He created them to be his friends. But once Adam and Eve sinned, they were afraid of God and were disconnected from him. Sin now made people enemies of God.

Fortunately, God wouldn't leave them or us that way. In Genesis 3:15, he tells the devil he will put "enmity" between the devil and people. Enmity means they'll be enemies. But that also means if we humans are enemies of the devil, we're friends of God once again! But how did that happen? The answer is in the rest of what God said to Satan: "He [that's talking about Jesus] shall bruise your [Satan's] head, and you shall bruise his heel." The devil would "bruise" Jesus when he died on the cross. But Jesus' dying would do more than bruise the devil. It would crush him! And Jesus' death, by taking away our sin, reconnects us to God.

This is the Bible's first Seeing Jesus feature (see the Seeing Jesus features introduction), but there are lots more. Go look.



Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him.
16 Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod,[1] east of Eden.

17 Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. When he built a city, he called the name of the city after the name of his son, Enoch. 18 To Enoch was born Irad, and Irad fathered Mehujael, and Mehujael fathered Methushael, and Methushael fathered Lamech. 19 And Lamech took two wives. The name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah. 20 Adah bore Jabal; he was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. 21 His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe. 22 Zillah also bore Tubal-cain; he was the forger of all instruments of bronze and iron. The sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah.

23 Lamech said to his wives:

"Adah and Zillah, hear my voice;
you wives of Lamech, listen to what I say:
I have killed a man for wounding me,
a young man for striking me.
24 If Cain's revenge is sevenfold,
then Lamech's is seventy-sevenfold."

25 And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, "God has appointed[2] for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him." 26 To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time people began to call upon the name of the LORD.

[1] *Nod* means *wandering* [2] *Seth* sounds like the Hebrew for *he appointed*

Adam's Descendants to Noah

5 This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. 2 Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when they were created. 3 When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth. 4 The days of Adam after he fathered Seth were 800 years; and he had other sons and daughters. 5 Thus all the days that Adam lived were 930 years, and he died.

6 When Seth had lived 105 years, he fathered Enosh. 7 Seth lived after he fathered Enosh 807 years and had other sons and daughters. 8 Thus all the days of Seth were 912 years, and he died.

9 When Enosh had lived 90 years, he fathered Kenan. 10 Enosh lived after he fathered Kenan 815 years and had other sons and daughters. 11 Thus all the days of Enosh were 905 years, and he died.

12 When Kenan had lived 70 years, he fathered Mahalalel. 13 Kenan lived after he fathered Mahalalel 840 years and had other sons and daughters. 14 Thus all the days of Kenan were 910 years, and he died.

15 When Mahalalel had lived 65 years, he fathered Jared. 16 Mahalalel lived after he fathered Jared 830 years and had other sons and daughters. 17 Thus all the days of Mahalalel were 895 years, and he died.

18 When Jared had lived 162 years, he fathered Enoch. 19 Jared lived after he fathered Enoch 800 years and had other sons and daughters. 20 Thus all the days of Jared were 962 years, and he died.

21 When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah. 22 Enoch walked with

WHY DID GOD PLACE GUARDS AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE GARDEN?

Cherubim (angels) were placed to prevent Adam from returning. Man could not undo or repair what he had done. Salvation would have to come outside of man—from God alone and from what he would do in his grace. **(3:24)**



God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. 23 Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. 24 Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

25 When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he fathered Lamech. 26 Methuselah lived after he fathered Lamech 782 years and had other sons and daughters. 27 Thus all the days of Methuselah were 969 years, and he died.

28 When Lamech had lived 182 years, he fathered a son 29 and called his name Noah, saying, "Out of the ground that the LORD has cursed, this one shall bring us relief[1] from our work and from the painful toil of our hands." 30 Lamech lived after he fathered Noah 595 years and had other sons and daughters. 31 Thus all the days of Lamech were 777 years, and he died.

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

Increasing Corruption on Earth

6 When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, 2 the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. 3 Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years." 4 The Nephilim[2] were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.

5 The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. 7 So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them." 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

Noah and the Flood

9 These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God. 10 And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

11 Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. 13 And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. 14 Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. 15 This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 cubits, its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits. 16 Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above, and set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks. 17 For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die. 18 But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. 19 And of every living thing of all flesh, you

[1] *Noah* sounds like the Hebrew for *relief* [2] Or *giants*

WHY WAS THE ARK SO LARGE?

Scripture says the ark was 450 feet long and 45 feet high. This would make the ark as long as one and a half football fields and as tall as a 5-story building. Since Noah, his family, and all of the animals were on board, it was important that the ark be large enough to hold everything necessary for a year's stay. Noah and his family came safely through the flood because of God's protection and deliverance. **(6:15–17)**



shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female. 20 Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground, according to its kind, two of every sort shall come in to you to keep them alive. 21 Also take with you every sort of food that is eaten, and store it up. It shall serve as food for you and for them." 22 Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

7 Then the LORD said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before me in this generation. 2 Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and his mate, and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and his mate, 3 and seven pairs of the birds of the heavens also, male and female, to keep their offspring alive on the face of all the earth. 4 For in seven days I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground." 5 And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him.

6 Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came upon the earth. 7 And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him went into the ark to escape the waters of the flood. 8 Of clean animals, and of animals that are not clean, and of birds, and of everything that creeps on the ground, 9 two and two, male and female, went into the ark with Noah, as God had commanded Noah. 10 And after seven days the waters of the flood came upon the earth.

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 fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. 12 And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights. 13 On the very same day Noah and his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them entered the ark, 14 they and every beast, according to its kind, and all the livestock according to their kinds, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, according to its kind, and every bird, according to its kind, every winged creature. 15 They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. 16 And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him. And the LORD shut him in.

17 The flood continued forty days on the earth. The waters increased and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. 18 The waters prevailed and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the face of the waters. 19 And the waters prevailed so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered. 20 The waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep. 21 And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, livestock, beasts, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all mankind. 22 Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. 23 He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens. They were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark. 24 And the waters prevailed on the earth 150 days.

The Flood Subsides

8 But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided. 2 The fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from the heavens was restrained, 3 and the waters receded from the earth continually. At the end of 150 days the waters had abated, 4 and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. 5 And the waters continued to abate until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen.

6 At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made 7 and sent forth a raven. It went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. 8 Then he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground. 9 But the dove found no place to set her foot, and she returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still

on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her and brought her into the ark with him. 10 He waited another seven days, and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark. 11 And the dove came back to him in the evening, and behold, in her mouth was a freshly plucked olive leaf. So Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. 12 Then he waited another seven days and sent forth the dove, and she did not return to him anymore.

13 In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried from off the earth. And Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and behold, the face of the ground was dry. 14 In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth had dried out. 15 Then God said to Noah, 16 "Go out from the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. 17 Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—that they may swarm on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth." 18 So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him. 19 Every beast, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out by families from the ark.

God's Covenant with Noah

20 Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. 21 And when the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, the LORD said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. 22 While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease."

9 And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. 2 The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered. 3 Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. 4 But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. 5 And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man.

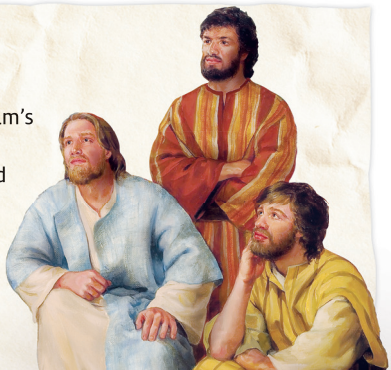
6 "Whoever sheds the blood of man,
by man shall his blood be shed,
for God made man in his own image.

7 And you, be fruitful and multiply, increase greatly on the earth and multiply in it."

8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 9 "Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, 10 and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. 11 I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." 12 And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: 13 I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant

WHO WERE NOAH'S SONS?

Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Some of Ham's descendants became known as the Canaanites, and they worshiped various false gods. Japheth's descendants settled in areas around the Mediterranean Sea. Some of Shem's descendants were the Israelites, God's chosen people. As God's people, the Israelites received the blessings of God, including the promise of the Savior. **(9:18)**



between me and the earth. 14 When I bring
clouds over the earth and the bow is seen
in the clouds, 15 I will remember my cov-
enant that is between me and you and every
living creature of all flesh. And the waters
shall never again become a flood to destroy
all flesh. 16 When the bow is in the clouds,
I will see it and remember the everlasting
covenant between God and every living
creature of all flesh that is on the earth."
17 God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the
covenant that I have established between
me and all flesh that is on the earth."

Noah's Descendants

18 The sons of Noah who went forth from
the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (Ham
was the father of Canaan.) 19 These three
were the sons of Noah, and from these the
people of the whole earth were dispersed.

20 Noah began to be a man of the soil,
and he planted a vineyard. 21 He drank of
the wine and became drunk and lay uncov-
ered in his tent. 22 And Ham, the father of
Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father and
told his two brothers outside. 23 Then Shem
and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both
their shoulders, and walked backward and
covered the nakedness of their father. Their
faces were turned backward, and they did
not see their father's nakedness. 24 When
Noah awoke from his wine and knew what
his youngest son had done to him, 25 he said,

"Cursed be Canaan;
a servant of servants shall he be to
his brothers."

26 He also said,

"Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem;
and let Canaan be his servant.
27 May God enlarge Japheth,[1]
and let him dwell in the tents of
Shem,
and let Canaan be his servant."

28 After the flood Noah lived 350 years.
29 All the days of Noah were 950 years, and
he died.

Nations Descended from Noah

10 These are the generations of the sons
of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.
Sons were born to them after the flood.

2 The sons of Japheth: Gomer, Magog,
Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.
3 The sons of Gomer: Ashkenaz, Riphath,
and Togarmah. 4 The sons of Javan: Elishah,
Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim. 5 From
these the coastland peoples spread in their
lands, each with his own language, by their
clans, in their nations.

6 The sons of Ham: Cush, Egypt, Put, and
Canaan. 7 The sons of Cush: Seba, Havilah,
Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabteca. The sons of
Raamah: Sheba and Dedan. 8 Cush fathered
Nimrod; he was the first on earth to be
a mighty man. 9 He was a mighty hunter
before the LORD. Therefore it is said, "Like
Nimrod a mighty hunter before the LORD."
10 The beginning of his kingdom was Babel,
Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of
Shinar. 11 From that land he went into
Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth-Ir,
Calah, and 12 Resen between Nineveh and
Calah; that is the great city. 13 Egypt fathered
Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim,
14 Pathrusim, Casluhim (from whom the
Philistines came), and Caphtorim.

15 Canaan fathered Sidon his firstborn
and Heth, 16 and the Jebusites, the Amorites,
the Girgashites, 17 the Hivites, the Arkites,
the Sinites, 18 the Arvadites, the Zemarites,
and the Hamathites. Afterward the clans
of the Canaanites dispersed. 19 And the
territory of the Canaanites extended from
Sidon in the direction of Gerar as far as
Gaza, and in the direction of Sodom,
Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, as far as
Lasha. 20 These are the sons of Ham, by
their clans, their languages, their lands,
and their nations.

21 To Shem also, the father of all the chil-
dren of Eber, the elder brother of Japheth,
children were born. 22 The sons of Shem:
Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, and Aram.
23 The sons of Aram: Uz, Hul, Gether, and
Mash. 24 Arpachshad fathered Shelah; and
Shelah fathered Eber. 25 To Eber were born
two sons: the name of the one was Peleg,[2]
for in his days the earth was divided, and
his brother's name was Joktan. 26 Joktan
fathered Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth,
Jerah, 27 Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, 28 Obal,
Abimael, Sheba, 29 Ophir, Havilah, and
Jobab; all these were the sons of Joktan.
30 The territory in which they lived extended

[1] *Japheth* sounds like the Hebrew for *enlarge* [2] *Peleg* means *division*

from Mesha in the direction of Sephar to the hill country of the east. 31 These are the sons of Shem, by their clans, their languages, their lands, and their nations.

32 These are the clans of the sons of Noah, according to their genealogies, in their nations, and from these the nations spread abroad on the earth after the flood.

The Tower of Babel

11 Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. 2 And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. 3 And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. 4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth." 5 And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. 6 And the LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. 7 Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech." 8 So the LORD dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. 9 Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused[1] the language of all the earth. And from there the LORD dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

[1] *Babel* sounds like the Hebrew for *confused*

Shem's Descendants

10 These are the generations of Shem. When Shem was 100 years old, he fathered Arpachshad two years after the flood. 11 And Shem lived after he fathered Arpachshad 500 years and had other sons and daughters.

12 When Arpachshad had lived 35 years, he fathered Shelah. 13 And Arpachshad lived after he fathered Shelah 403 years and had other sons and daughters.

14 When Shelah had lived 30 years, he fathered Eber. 15 And Shelah lived after he fathered Eber 403 years and had other sons and daughters.

16 When Eber had lived 34 years, he fathered Peleg. 17 And Eber lived after he fathered Peleg 430 years and had other sons and daughters.

18 When Peleg had lived 30 years, he fathered Reu. 19 And Peleg lived after he fathered Reu 209 years and had other sons and daughters.

20 When Reu had lived 32 years, he fathered Serug. 21 And Reu lived after he fathered Serug 207 years and had other sons and daughters.

22 When Serug had lived 30 years, he fathered Nahor. 23 And Serug lived after he fathered Nahor 200 years and had other sons and daughters.

24 When Nahor had lived 29 years, he fathered Terah. 25 And Nahor lived after he fathered Terah 119 years and had other sons and daughters.

26 When Terah had lived 70 years, he fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran.

WHAT WAS THE TOWER OF BABEL?

It is thought that the tower was actually a ziggurat. Ziggurats were similar to pyramids, but with steps on the outside. They were made from clay bricks. At the top of the structure, the people gathered at a temple. Here they prayed and tried to reach heaven. The children of the true God know that we are not able to reach him all by ourselves. Instead, he reached down to us through the birth of his Son. **(11:1–9)**

