

A
Girl After
God's
Own Heart[®]

BIBLE

WITH HELP and ENCOURAGEMENT FROM

Elizabeth George



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HARVEST HOUSE PUBLISHERS
EUGENE, OREGON





A SPECIAL ENCOURAGEMENT FROM *Elizabeth George*

Dear precious friend,

Welcome to your very own *A Girl After God's Own Heart*® Bible. I am so excited for you as you begin this new adventure in God's Word! By spending some time each day discovering its many life-changing messages, you will get to know God better and continue to grow into the beautiful person He created you to be. Yes, you can be confident that reading the Bible can make a big difference in your life. Here are a few reasons why.

First, *the Bible claims to be written by God*. No other book in the whole world can make this claim. The first part of the Bible, called the Old Testament, states more than 2,000 times that the Bible is the Word of God. And the second part of the Bible, called the New Testament, states more than 40 times that the Bible is the Word of God.

Another reason why your Bible is so special is that *the Bible is indestructible*. In other words, the Bible is everlasting, permanent, and forever. This means that no one has ever been able to destroy the Bible! Over the last 2,000 years, there have been many people and nations who have tried to keep people like you from reading the Bible and learning its truths. It is just like the Bible says about itself: "The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of our God stands forever" (Isaiah 40:8).

What issues, problems, worries, or concerns are you facing today? Pick up your Bible and spend some time reading God's Word. The answers you need are in your Bible and will lead you and guide you to discover everything you need to live a life that honors God (2 Peter 1:3). No other book can make these claims.

Before you begin your adventure in your very own Bible, I want to give you three words of encouragement.

First, *be patient*. You may not understand some of the things you are reading, but whatever you do, keep taking in what you can. God wants you to know Him.

Second, *ask others for help* if you don't understand what you are reading. Keep asking until you have answers.

Third, *don't give up*. It takes time to learn to play a musical instrument, or to become good at a sport, or to learn a foreign language. So don't give up on your goals and your desire to grow in your knowledge of God.

My dear friend, you are so special to me! As you begin your journey through God's Word, I will be praying for you. I will be praying that you have ears to hear and a heart that is wide open to God. I am praying right now that you will enjoy every moment you spend with your Lord and Savior in His Word.

Elizabeth George



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How to Use This Bible



Here are some special features you'll find in
A Girl After God's Own Heart® Bible.

Esther

Theme: Preservation | **Date Written:** 450–431 BC
Author: Unknown | **Setting:** The court of Persia

ESTHER is one of two books in the Bible named after a woman (the other one is Ruth). Esther was a faithful and courageous Jewish orphan who became queen of the vast Persian Empire. She risked her life to save the Jewish people from an evil plot to destroy them all.

Prayer

Dear Lord, please give me courage to speak up for my beliefs and be willing to suffer the consequences.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM ESTHER

- Even when you have problems, trust in God.
- Even when life is difficult, serve God and His people.
- God's protective hand is always present, even when it is not visible.
- Speaking up for your beliefs requires courage.
- God has prepared every one of His people—including you—for a special purpose.

Where to Find It

- Mordecai's care for Esther Esther 2:5–7
- Haman's plot against the Jews Esther 3:8–9
- Esther's purpose: to be queen
"for just such a time as this" Esther 4:14
- Esther's courage: "If I must die, I must die" Esther 4:16
- The Feast of Purim Esther 9:20–24

A **short introduction** to every book of the Bible explaining what it's about and highlighting some of its main lessons. These will help you discover important truths God teaches us in His Word.

Joanna and Susanna

GIVING BACK

*Do you give thanks to the Lord for all that is good in your life?
And do you give something back to show your thanks?*

Meet two women, Susanna and Joanna, whom Jesus touched with His healing hand.

Both of these women knew from experience that “the LORD is good” (Psalm 34:8). How does someone thank God for the miracle of healing? These two women gave money to support Jesus’ ministry, which had blessed them.

Now think about what you can give as you read God’s principles for your giving:

- **Give freely**—“Give as freely as you have received” (Matthew 10:8)!
- **Give bountifully**—“The one who plants generously will get a generous crop” (2 Corinthians 9:6).
- **Give cheerfully**—“You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. ‘For God loves a person who gives cheerfully’” (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Ask God and your parents about what you can do for others. Ask Him to show you ways you can be more generous. Giving back can be as simple as volunteering your time or helping a friend in need. Most of all, give from your heart!

Check It Out: God does not need your money, but He does need your heart to be willing to give.

Main Text: Luke 8:3; 23:55–24:12

Fifty **biographical notes** about women and girls in the Bible. Each story helps you see how you can get to know God better and follow Him every day.

What God Says About . . .

Your Purpose

Thinking and living according to the truths in the Bible will help you live out God's purposes. To figure out your own purpose, just start doing things for others and for God! Here are a few ideas:

1. **You are to be salt** (Matthew 5:13). Salt makes food taste better and makes meals even more enjoyable. Being "salt" in the world means showing unbelievers the joy that is possible in knowing God's Son and living for Him.
2. **You are to be light** (Matthew 5:14). As a child of God, you are to shine with a radiance that comes from the presence of Jesus in your heart.
3. **You are to make a difference in the world . . . and for eternity** (John 17:6–18). You are to be a witness of Jesus and for Jesus "to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

God wants you, a girl after His own heart, to live out His purposes for you. He wants you to be a walking advertisement for Jesus. Each day ask yourself, *What can I do today to live out God's purposes?* Then do it!

Learn More: Deuteronomy 13:4; Matthew 5:43–48; Acts 11:23; Romans 12:2

Explanations of the **Bible's teaching** on friendship, your identity, peer pressure, and dozens of other topics that are important for you.

TRUE BEAUTY NEVER FADES

Esther 9:29–32

We live in a world where image matters. But Proverbs 31:30 tells us, "Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears the LORD will be praised."

Queen Esther was praised not only for her beauty (Esther 2:7) but also for her faith in God, her wisdom, and her dedication to save God's people.

Your faith in God, your wisdom, and your commitment to God's purposes make you beautiful in God's eyes, which is a beauty that never fades.

Lord, I want to be beautiful in Your eyes, to love You and serve You, to do what You ask of me. Amen.

More than a hundred **brief devotions** and prayers that will help you grow deeper in your relationship with God.

DID YOU
KNOW?

BEHIND THE SCENES

The book of Esther never mentions God's name, but it is easy to see His activity throughout the story.

Hundreds of **interesting facts** about people, places, and things to help you get to know the world of the Bible.

OPEN YOUR HEART

... and thank God for His provisions. Always remember that God is able to meet your needs, whether they are physical, spiritual, emotional, or social. The next time you find yourself worrying about what you don't have or what you think you should have, look to God and remember that He promises to "supply all your needs" (Philippians 4:19).

Notes on more than 150 key concepts from the Bible that will help you plant these truths deep in your heart.

¹⁶"For this is how God loved the world: He gave* his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷God sent his Son into the world

John 3:16

God loves us so much! God's Son gave His life so we can live with Him forever.

Dozens of **highlighted verses** with one-line applications. You can turn to these again and again to grow spiritually strong and to be encouraged in your everyday life. You could even memorize some!

Genesis



Theme: Beginnings | **Date Written:** 1445–1405 BC

Author: Moses | **Setting:** Middle East



GENESIS is about beginnings. God begins the Bible with major events, such as the creation of the universe, the fall of man into sin, the flood of judgment, and the founding of the nation of Israel.

In the book of Genesis, God also introduces readers to people who will be part of His plan for redeeming the human race.

Prayer

Lord, You showed the men and women of Genesis Your grace and mercy. Thank You for extending that same grace and mercy to me.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM GENESIS



God, the unique and awesome Creator, made you and knows you better than you know yourself.



God created you in His image.



God uses everyday people—the imperfect, the failures, the flawed—to accomplish His will.



God takes evil seriously, and those who reject Him will experience His judgment.



God is able to turn your problems into triumphs.

Where to Find It

God creates the world.....	Genesis 1:1–2:3
The first prophecy about Jesus.....	Genesis 3:15
Noah and the ark.....	Genesis 6:1–8:22
Abraham and Isaac at Moriah.....	Genesis 22:1–14
Jacob dreams of the ladder to heaven.....	Genesis 28:10–22
Jacob wrestles with God.....	Genesis 32:22–32
Joseph interprets Pharaoh’s dreams.....	Genesis 41:1–36

The Account of Creation

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*²The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

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

And evening passed and morning came, marking the first day.

⁶Then God said, “Let there be a space between the waters, to separate the waters

1:1 Or *In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, . . .* Or *When God began to create the heavens and the earth, . . .*

Genesis 1:1

God, only You are powerful enough to create the universe.

of the heavens from the waters of the earth.”⁷And that is what happened. God made this space to separate the waters of the earth from the waters of the heavens.

⁸God called the space “sky.”

And evening passed and morning came, marking the second day.

⁹Then God said, “Let the waters beneath the sky flow together into one place, so dry ground may appear.” And that is what

THE BEGINNING OF A NEW LIFE

Genesis 1:1

What does your Bible look like? Does it have a worn cover, showing that you read it often? Or is your Bible tucked away on a shelf, covered in dust?

Determine in your heart today to dust off your Bible and start reading it from the very first verse: “In the beginning . . .” The Bible has all the answers you need.

Just turn the pages and discover what God wants to tell you about Himself and about your life.

***God, I am ready to begin a new life!
I want to read Your Word each day,
knowing that it has a special
message just for me. Amen.***

happened. ¹⁰God called the dry ground “land” and the waters “seas.” And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, “Let the land sprout with vegetation—every sort of seed-bearing plant, and trees that grow seed-bearing fruit. These seeds will then produce the kinds of plants and trees from which they came.” And that is what happened. ¹²The land produced vegetation—all sorts of seed-bearing plants, and trees with seed-bearing fruit. Their seeds produced plants and trees of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.

¹³And evening passed and morning came, marking the third day.

¹⁴Then God said, “Let lights appear in the sky to separate the day from the night. Let them be signs to mark the seasons, days, and years. ¹⁵Let these lights in the sky shine down on the earth.” And that is what happened. ¹⁶God made two great lights—the larger one to govern the day, and the smaller one to govern the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷God set these lights in the sky to light the earth, ¹⁸to govern the day and night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

¹⁹And evening passed and morning came, marking the fourth day.

²⁰Then God said, “Let the waters swarm with fish and other life. Let the skies be filled with birds of every kind.” ²¹So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that scurries and swarms in the water, and every sort of bird—each producing offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²Then God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply. Let the fish fill the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth.”

²³And evening passed and morning came, marking the fifth day.

²⁴Then God said, “Let the earth produce every sort of animal, each producing offspring of the same kind—livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and wild

animals.” And that is what happened.

²⁵God made all sorts of wild animals, livestock, and small animals, each able to produce offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶Then God said, “Let us make human beings* in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth,* and the small animals that scurry along the ground.”

²⁷ So God created human beings* in his own image.

In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

²⁸Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.”

²⁹Then God said, “Look! I have given you every seed-bearing plant throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food. ³⁰And I have given every green plant as food for all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, and the small animals that scurry along the ground—everything that has life.” And that is what happened.

³¹Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!

And evening passed and morning came, marking the sixth day.

2 So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. ²On the seventh day God had

DID YOU KNOW?

ADAM

Adam was the first human, and he lived 930 years.

Eve

A GIRL WHO WANTED MORE

*Is getting your own way super important to you?
Do you think breaking a rule is no big deal?*

Let's look at the life of a very special young lady who had basically everything but broke a big rule to get her own way.

Eve had everything she wanted and needed. She had all she could eat. She had no work chores. She had a problem-free life. And best of all, Eve could walk with God and talk to Him.

But even though Eve had more than any girl has ever had, she wanted more, and Satan convinced her she could have it all—if she ate fruit from the one tree God said not to eat from. The result? “She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious . . . So she took some of the fruit and ate it” (Genesis 3:6). Little did Eve know that through her actions, sin entered the world (1 Timothy 2:14).

Beware! You will always be tempted to want more than God gives you. That's why God tells you to “Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith” (1 Peter 5:8–9).

Check It Out: Eve was the first woman, wife, and mother—and the first person to sin.

Main Text: Genesis 2:1–5:5

DID YOU
KNOW?

THE GARDEN OF EDEN

The Garden of Eden was created by God and was the original home of Adam and Eve.

finished his work of creation, so he rested* from all his work. ³And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation.

⁴This is the account of the creation of the heavens and the earth.

The Man and Woman in Eden

When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵neither wild plants nor grains were growing on the earth. For the LORD God had not yet sent rain to water the earth, and there were no people to cultivate the soil. ⁶Instead, springs* came up from the ground and watered all the land. ⁷Then the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person.

⁸Then the LORD God planted a garden in Eden in the east, and there he placed the man he had made. ⁹The LORD God made all sorts of trees grow up from the ground—trees that were beautiful and that produced delicious fruit. In the middle of the garden he placed the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰A river flowed from the land of Eden, watering the garden and then dividing into four branches. ¹¹The first branch, called the Pishon, flowed around the entire land of Havilah, where gold is found. ¹²The gold of that land is exceptionally pure; aromatic resin and onyx stone are also found there. ¹³The second

branch, called the Gihon, flowed around the entire land of Cush. ¹⁴The third branch, called the Tigris, flowed east of the land of Asshur. The fourth branch is called the Euphrates.

¹⁵The LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. ¹⁶But the LORD God warned him, "You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden—¹⁷except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die."

¹⁸Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him." ¹⁹So the LORD God formed from the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the sky. He brought them to the man* to see what he would call them, and the man chose a name for each one. ²⁰He gave names to all the livestock, all the birds of the sky, and all the wild animals. But still there was no helper just right for him.

²¹So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the LORD God took out one of the man's ribs* and closed up the opening. ²²Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man.

²³"At last!" the man exclaimed.

"This one is bone from my bone,
and flesh from my flesh!
She will be called 'woman,'
because she was taken from 'man.'"

²⁴This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.

DID YOU
KNOW?

THE SABBATH

In the Ten Commandments, God told His people to rest and worship God on the seventh day. The Hebrew word *Shabbāth* means "rest."

2:2 Or *ceased*; also in 2:3. 2:6 Or *mist*. 2:19 Or *Adam*, and so throughout the chapter. 2:21 Or *took a part of the man's side*.



DID YOU
KNOW?

SERPENTS

Satan, in the form of a serpent, tempted Eve to commit the first sin on earth (Genesis 3:1–6).

²⁵Now the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame.

The Man and Woman Sin

3 The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the LORD God had made. One day he asked the woman, “Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?”

²“Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,” the woman replied. ³“It’s only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, ‘You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.’”

⁴“You won’t die!” the serpent replied to the woman. ⁵“God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.”

⁶The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. ⁷At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.

⁸When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man* and his wife heard the LORD God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the LORD God among the trees. ⁹Then the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

¹⁰He replied, “I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked.”

¹¹“Who told you that you were naked?” the LORD God asked. “Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?”

¹²The man replied, “It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it.”

¹³Then the LORD God asked the woman, “What have you done?”

“The serpent deceived me,” she replied. “That’s why I ate it.”

¹⁴Then the LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all animals, domestic and wild.

You will crawl on your belly, groveling in the dust as long as you live.

¹⁵ And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring.

He will strike* your head, and you will strike his heel.”

¹⁶Then he said to the woman,

“I will sharpen the pain of your pregnancy, and in pain you will give birth.

And you will desire to control your husband, but he will rule over you.*”

¹⁷And to the man he said,



DID YOU
KNOW?

THE GRACE OF GOD . . .

- sought out Adam,
- promised mankind a Savior,
- clothed Adam and Eve, and
- provided for Adam and Eve’s physical needs.

3:8 Or *Adam*, and so throughout the chapter. 3:15 Or *bruise*; also in 3:15b. 3:16 Or *And though you will have desire for your husband, / he will rule over you.*

“Since you listened to your wife and ate from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat, the ground is cursed because of you. All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it.

¹⁸ It will grow thorns and thistles for you, though you will eat of its grains.

¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow will you have food to eat until you return to the ground from which you were made. For you were made from dust, and to dust you will return.”

Paradise Lost: God’s Judgment

²⁰Then the man—Adam—named his wife Eve, because she would be the mother of all who live.* ²¹And the LORD God made clothing from animal skins for Adam and his wife.

²²Then the LORD God said, “Look, the human beings* have become like us, knowing both good and evil. What if they reach out, take fruit from the tree of life, and eat it? Then they will live forever!” ²³So the LORD God banished them from the Garden of Eden, and he sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made. ²⁴After sending them out, the LORD God stationed mighty cherubim to the east of the Garden of Eden. And he placed a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

Cain and Abel

4 Now Adam* had sexual relations with his wife, Eve, and she became pregnant. When she gave birth to Cain, she said, “With the LORD’s help, I have produced* a man!” ²Later she gave birth to his brother and named him Abel.

When they grew up, Abel became a shepherd, while Cain cultivated the ground. ³When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the LORD. ⁴Abel also brought a gift—the best portions of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The LORD accepted Abel and his gift, ⁵but he did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected.

DID YOU KNOW?

ABEL

Abel was the first person in the world to be murdered (Genesis 4:8).

“Why are you so angry?” the LORD asked Cain. “Why do you look so dejected? You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master.”

⁸One day Cain suggested to his brother, “Let’s go out into the fields.”* And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother, Abel, and killed him.

⁹Afterward the LORD asked Cain, “Where is your brother? Where is Abel?”

“I don’t know,” Cain responded. “Am I my brother’s guardian?”

¹⁰But the LORD said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me

DID YOU KNOW?

THE CHILDREN OF ADAM AND EVE

- Cain (Genesis 4:1)
- Abel (Genesis 4:2)
- Seth (Genesis 4:25)
- Other sons and daughters (Genesis 5:4)

^{3:20} *Eve* sounds like a Hebrew term that means “to give life.” ^{3:22} Or *the man*; Hebrew reads *ha-adam*.

^{4:1a} Or *the man*; also in ^{4:25}. ^{4:1b} Or *I have acquired*. *Cain* sounds like a Hebrew term that can mean “produce” or “acquire.”

^{4:8} As in Samaritan Pentateuch, Greek and Syriac versions, and Latin Vulgate; Masoretic Text lacks “Let’s go out into the fields.”

from the ground! ¹¹Now you are cursed and banished from the ground, which has swallowed your brother's blood. ¹²No longer will the ground yield good crops for you, no matter how hard you work! From now on you will be a homeless wanderer on the earth."

¹³Cain replied to the LORD, "My punishment* is too great for me to bear! ¹⁴You have banished me from the land and from your presence; you have made me a homeless wanderer. Anyone who finds me will kill me!"

¹⁵The LORD replied, "No, for I will give a sevenfold punishment to anyone who kills you." Then the LORD put a mark on Cain to warn

anyone who might try to kill him. ¹⁶So Cain left the LORD's presence and settled in the land of Nod,* east of Eden.

The Descendants of Cain

¹⁷Cain had sexual relations with his wife, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Enoch. Then Cain founded a city, which he named Enoch, after his son. ¹⁸Enoch had a son named Irad. Irad became the father of* Mehujael. Mehujael became the father of Methushael. Methushael became the father of Lamech.

¹⁹Lamech married two women. The first was named Adah, and the second was Zillah. ²⁰Adah gave birth to Jabal, who was the first of those who raise livestock and live in tents.

4:13 Or *My sin*. 4:16 *Nod* means "wandering." 4:18 Or *the ancestor of*, and so throughout the verse.

CHOICES

Genesis 4:6-7

When God looked inside Cain's heart,
He found something that would lead Cain
to make some terrible choices. That thing was anger!

The choices you make are very important. If you want to know what you will be like in the future, take a look at the choices you are making today. Whatever you are facing right this minute, make a decision to love, honor, and follow the Lord.

*Lord, every time I turn around, I have
to make decisions. Please guide me
to choose Your path and do
Your will. Amen.*

DID YOU
KNOW?

CAIN, THE FIRST MURDERER

- When God accepted Abel’s offering but did not accept Cain’s offering, Cain became angry and jealous and “attacked his brother, Abel, and killed him” (Genesis 4:8).
- Cain was cursed by God, who banished him out into the world (Genesis 4:10–12).

²¹His brother’s name was Jubal, the first of all who play the harp and flute. ²²Lamech’s other wife, Zillah, gave birth to a son named Tubal-cain. He became an expert in forging tools of bronze and iron. Tubal-cain had a sister named Naamah. ²³One day Lamech said to his wives,

“Adah and Zillah, hear my voice;
listen to me, you wives of Lamech.
I have killed a man who attacked me,
a young man who wounded me.

²⁴ If someone who kills Cain is punished seven times,
then the one who kills me will be
punished seventy-seven times!”

The Birth of Seth

²⁵Adam had sexual relations with his wife again, and she gave birth to another son. She named him Seth,* for she said, “God has granted me another son in place of Abel, whom Cain killed.” ²⁶When Seth grew up, he had a son and named him Enosh. At that time people first began to worship the LORD by name.

The Descendants of Adam

5 This is the written account of the descendants of Adam. When God created human beings,* he made them to be like himself. ²He created them male and female, and he blessed them and called them “human.”

³When Adam was 130 years old, he became the father of a son who was just like him—in his very image. He named his son Seth. ⁴After the birth of Seth, Adam lived another 800 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ⁵Adam lived 930 years, and then he died.

⁶When Seth was 105 years old, he became the father of* Enosh. ⁷After the birth of* Enosh, Seth lived another 807 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ⁸Seth lived 912 years, and then he died.

⁹When Enosh was 90 years old, he became the father of Kenan. ¹⁰After the birth of Kenan, Enosh lived another 815 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ¹¹Enosh lived 905 years, and then he died.

¹²When Kenan was 70 years old, he became the father of Mahalalel. ¹³After the birth of Mahalalel, Kenan lived another 840 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ¹⁴Kenan lived 910 years, and then he died.

¹⁵When Mahalalel was 65 years old, he became the father of Jared. ¹⁶After the birth of Jared, Mahalalel lived another 830 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ¹⁷Mahalalel lived 895 years, and then he died.

¹⁸When Jared was 162 years old, he became the father of Enoch. ¹⁹After the birth of Enoch, Jared lived another 800 years, and

4:25 *Seth* probably means “granted”; the name may also mean “appointed.” 5:1 Or *man*; Hebrew reads *adam*; similarly in 5:2. 5:6 Or *the ancestor of*; also in 5:9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 25. 5:7 Or *the birth of this ancestor of*; also in 5:10, 13, 16, 19, 22, 26.

DID YOU
KNOW?

THE TOP-TEN OLDEST PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE

1. Methuselah lived 969 years (Genesis 5:27).
2. Jared lived 962 years (5:20).
3. Noah lived 950 years (9:29).
4. Adam lived 930 years (5:5).
5. Seth lived 912 years (5:8).
6. Kenan lived 910 years (5:14).
7. Enosh lived 905 years (5:11).
8. Mahalalel lived 895 years (5:17).
9. Lamech lived 777 years (5:31).
10. Enoch lived 365 years (5:23).

he had other sons and daughters. ²⁰Jared lived 962 years, and then he died.

²¹When Enoch was 65 years old, he became the father of Methuselah. ²²After the birth of Methuselah, Enoch lived in close fellowship with God for another 300 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ²³Enoch lived 365 years, ²⁴walking in close fellowship with God. Then one day he disappeared, because God took him.

²⁵When Methuselah was 187 years old, he became the father of Lamech. ²⁶After the birth of Lamech, Methuselah lived another 782 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ²⁷Methuselah lived 969 years, and then he died.

²⁸When Lamech was 182 years old, he became the father of a son. ²⁹Lamech named his son Noah, for he said, “May he bring us relief* from our work and the painful labor of farming this ground that the LORD has cursed.” ³⁰After the birth of Noah, Lamech lived another 595 years,

and he had other sons and daughters.

³¹Lamech lived 777 years, and then he died.

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

A World Gone Wrong

6 Then the people began to multiply on the earth, and daughters were born to them. ²The sons of God saw the beautiful women* and took any they wanted as their wives. ³Then the LORD said, “My Spirit will not put up with* humans for such a long time, for they are only mortal flesh. In the future, their normal lifespan will be no more than 120 years.”

⁴In those days, and for some time after, giant Nephilites lived on the earth, for whenever the sons of God had intercourse with women, they gave birth to children who became the heroes and famous warriors of ancient times.

⁵The LORD observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and he saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil. ⁶So the LORD was sorry he had ever made them and put them on the earth. It broke his heart. ⁷And the LORD said, “I will wipe this human race I have created from the face of the earth. Yes, and I will destroy every living thing—all the people, the large animals, the small animals that scurry along the ground, and even the birds of the sky. I am sorry I ever made them.” ⁸But Noah found favor with the LORD.

The Story of Noah

⁹This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, the only blameless person living on earth at the time, and he walked in close fellowship with God. ¹⁰Noah was the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

¹¹Now God saw that the earth had become corrupt and was filled with violence. ¹²God observed all this corruption in the world, for everyone on earth was corrupt. ¹³So God said to Noah, “I have decided to destroy all living creatures, for they have filled the earth with

5:29 *Noah* sounds like a Hebrew term that can mean “relief” or “comfort.” 6:2 Hebrew *daughters of men*; also in 6:4. 6:3 Greek version reads *will not remain in*.

violence. Yes, I will wipe them all out along with the earth!

¹⁴“Build a large boat* from cypress wood* and waterproof it with tar, inside and out. Then construct decks and stalls throughout its interior. ¹⁵Make the boat 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. ¹⁶Leave an 18-inch opening* below the roof all the way around the boat. Put the door on the side, and build three decks inside the boat—lower, middle, and upper.

¹⁷“Look! I am about to cover the earth with a flood that will destroy every living thing that breathes. Everything on earth will die. ¹⁸But I will confirm my covenant with you. So enter the boat—you and your wife and your sons and their wives. ¹⁹Bring a pair of every kind of animal—a male and a female—into the boat with you to keep them alive during the flood. ²⁰Pairs of every kind of bird, and every kind of animal, and every kind of small animal that scurries along the ground, will come to you to be kept alive. ²¹And be sure to take on board enough food for your family and for all the animals.”

²²So Noah did everything exactly as God had commanded him.

The Flood Covers the Earth

7 When everything was ready, the LORD said to Noah, “Go into the boat with all your family, for among all the people of the earth, I can see that you alone are righteous. ²Take with you seven pairs—male and female—of each animal I have approved for eating and

6:14a Traditionally rendered *an ark*. **6:14b** Or *gopher wood*. **6:15** Hebrew *300 cubits* [138 meters] *long, 50 cubits* [23 meters] *wide, and 30 cubits* [13.8 meters] *high*. **6:16** Hebrew *an opening of 1 cubit* [46 centimeters]. **7:2** Hebrew *of each clean animal*; similarly in 7:8.

DID YOU KNOW?

NOAH

Noah was a good man who lived by God’s standards. For instance, when God told Noah to build a giant boat, “Noah did everything exactly as God had commanded him” (Genesis 6:22).

for sacrifice,* and take one pair of each of the others. ³Also take seven pairs of every kind of bird. There must be a male and a female in each pair to ensure that all life will survive on the earth after the flood. ⁴Seven days from now I will make the rains pour down on the earth. And it will rain for forty days and forty nights, until I have wiped from the earth all the living things I have created.”

⁵So Noah did everything as the LORD commanded him.

⁶Noah was 600 years old when the flood covered the earth. ⁷He went on board the boat to escape the flood—he and his wife and his sons and their wives. ⁸With them were all the various kinds of animals—those approved for eating and for sacrifice and those that were not—along with all the birds and the

DID YOU KNOW?

NOAH’S ARK

- The ark was a box-shaped boat large enough to house two of every kind of animal, male and female, along with Noah and his family.
- Noah took 120 years to build the ark (Genesis 6:3). The ark was 450 feet long (about one and a half football fields), 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. It had a door on the side and a window on the roof.

DID YOU
KNOW?

THE FLOOD

- Because of the sinfulness of the people in Noah’s time, God sent a flood that covered the earth. Only Noah and his family were spared because “Noah found favor with the LORD” (Genesis 6:8).
- The first-ever rain fell for forty days and forty nights. After twelve months and eleven days, Noah’s boat landed on a mountaintop, where Noah and his family were finally able to leave the boat.

small animals that scurry along the ground. ⁹They entered the boat in pairs, male and female, just as God had commanded Noah. ¹⁰After seven days, the waters of the flood came and covered the earth.

¹¹When Noah was 600 years old, on the seventeenth day of the second month, all the underground waters erupted from the earth, and the rain fell in mighty torrents from the sky. ¹²The rain continued to fall for forty days and forty nights.

¹³That very day Noah had gone into the boat with his wife and his sons—Shem, Ham, and Japheth—and their wives. ¹⁴With them in the boat were pairs of every kind of animal—domestic and wild, large and small—along with birds of every kind. ¹⁵Two by two they came into the boat, representing every living thing that breathes. ¹⁶A male and female of each kind entered, just as God had commanded Noah. Then the LORD closed the door behind them.

¹⁷For forty days the floodwaters grew deeper, covering the ground and lifting the boat high above the earth. ¹⁸As the waters rose higher and higher above the ground, the boat floated safely on the surface. ¹⁹Finally, the water covered even the highest mountains on the earth. ²⁰rising more than twenty-two feet* above the highest peaks. ²¹All the living things on earth died—birds, domestic animals, wild animals, small animals that scurry along the ground, and all the people.

²²Everything that breathed and lived on dry land died. ²³God wiped out every living thing on the earth—people, livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and the birds of the sky. All were destroyed. The only people who survived were Noah and those with him in the boat. ²⁴And the floodwaters covered the earth for 150 days.

The Flood Recedes

8 But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and livestock with him in the boat. He sent a wind to blow across the earth, and the floodwaters began to recede. ²The underground waters stopped flowing, and the torrential rains from the sky were stopped. ³So the floodwaters gradually receded from the earth. After 150 days, ⁴exactly five months from the time the flood began,* the boat came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. ⁵Two and a half months later,* as the waters continued to go down, other mountain peaks became visible.

⁶After another forty days, Noah opened the window he had made in the boat ⁷and released a raven. The bird flew back and forth until the floodwaters on the earth had dried up. ⁸He also released a dove to see if the water had receded and it could find dry ground. ⁹But the dove could find no place to land because the water still covered the ground. So it returned to the boat, and Noah held out his hand and drew the dove back inside. ¹⁰After

7:20 Hebrew *15 cubits* [6.9 meters]. 8:4 Hebrew *on the seventeenth day of the seventh month*; see 7:11. 8:5 Hebrew *On the first day of the tenth month*; see 7:11 and note on 8:4.

waiting another seven days, Noah released the dove again. ¹¹This time the dove returned to him in the evening with a fresh olive leaf in its beak. Then Noah knew that the floodwaters were almost gone. ¹²He waited another seven days and then released the dove again. This time it did not come back.

¹³Noah was now 601 years old. On the first day of the new year, ten and a half months after the flood began,* the floodwaters had almost dried up from the earth. Noah lifted back the covering of the boat and saw that the surface of the ground was drying. ¹⁴Two more months went by,* and at last the earth was dry!

¹⁵Then God said to Noah, ¹⁶“Leave the boat,

all of you—you and your wife, and your sons and their wives. ¹⁷Release all the animals—the birds, the livestock, and the small animals that scurry along the ground—so they can be fruitful and multiply throughout the earth.”

¹⁸So Noah, his wife, and his sons and their wives left the boat. ¹⁹And all of the large and small animals and birds came out of the boat, pair by pair.

²⁰Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and there he sacrificed as burnt offerings the animals and birds that had been approved for that purpose.* ²¹And the LORD was pleased with the aroma of the sacrifice and said to himself, “I will never again curse the ground because of the human race, even though

8:13 Hebrew *On the first day of the first month*; see 7:11. **8:14** Hebrew *The twenty-seventh day of the second month arrived*; see note on 8:13. **8:20** Hebrew *every clean animal and every clean bird*.

WAITING

Genesis 8:3–14

Take a minute and think about the patience of Noah and his family as they waited. They had to wait more than 365 days until the waters and the land dried (Genesis 8:3–14).

Waiting is hard, but it develops your trust in the Lord. You learn that God alone knows what He is doing. No matter how life looks, be happy while you wait because you get to spend time with the Lord! How awesome is that?

Father, You know how I hate to wait for anything or anybody. Help me learn to be patient as I wait for Your wisdom and Your direction.

Amen.

DID YOU
KNOW?

THE MOUNTAINS OF ARARAT

The Bible says Noah's boat settled "on the mountains of Ararat" when the floodwaters began to recede (Genesis 8:4). To this day there is no real evidence as to the exact location of the ark.

everything they think or imagine is bent toward evil from childhood. I will never again destroy all living things.²²As long as the earth remains, there will be planting and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night."

God Confirms His Covenant

9 Then God blessed Noah and his sons and told them, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth.²All the animals of the earth, all the birds of the sky, all the small animals that scurry along the ground, and all the fish in the sea will look on you with fear and terror. I have placed them in your power.³I have given

9:6 Or *man*; Hebrew reads *ha-adam*.

them to you for food, just as I have given you grain and vegetables.⁴But you must never eat any meat that still has the lifeblood in it.

⁵"And I will require the blood of anyone who takes another person's life. If a wild animal kills a person, it must die. And anyone who murders a fellow human must die.⁶If anyone takes a human life, that person's life will also be taken by human hands. For God made human beings* in his own image.⁷Now be fruitful and multiply, and repopulate the earth."

⁸Then God told Noah and his sons, "I hereby confirm my covenant with you and your descendants,¹⁰and with all the animals that were on the boat with you—the birds, the livestock, and all the wild animals—every living creature on earth.¹¹Yes, I am confirming my covenant with you. Never again will floodwaters kill all living creatures; never again will a flood destroy the earth."

¹²Then God said, "I am giving you a sign of my covenant with you and with all living creatures, for all generations to come.¹³I have placed my rainbow in the clouds. It is the sign of my covenant with you and with all the earth.¹⁴When I send clouds over the earth, the rainbow will appear in the clouds,¹⁵and I will remember my covenant with you and with all living creatures. Never again will the floodwaters destroy all life.¹⁶When I see the rainbow in the clouds, I will remember the eternal covenant between God and every living creature on earth."¹⁷Then God

DID YOU
KNOW?

DOVES

- Noah sent out doves to test whether there was any dry land (Genesis 8:8).
- Israelites who couldn't afford a lamb to sacrifice (like Jesus' parents) could bring doves instead (Leviticus 4:8, Luke 2:24).
- A dove was used to describe the way the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus after His baptism (Matthew 3:16).

said to Noah, “Yes, this rainbow is the sign of the covenant I am confirming with all the creatures on earth.”

Noah's Sons

¹⁸The sons of Noah who came out of the boat with their father were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (Ham is the father of Canaan.)

¹⁹From these three sons of Noah came all the people who now populate the earth.

²⁰After the flood, Noah began to cultivate the ground, and he planted a vineyard. ²¹One day he drank some wine he had made, and he became drunk and lay naked inside his tent.

²²Ham, the father of Canaan, saw that his father was naked and went outside and told his brothers. ²³Then Shem and Japheth took a robe, held it over their shoulders, and backed into the tent to cover their father. As they did this, they looked the other way so they would not see him naked.

²⁴When Noah woke up from his stupor, he learned what Ham, his youngest son, had done. ²⁵Then he cursed Canaan, the son of Ham:

“May Canaan be cursed!
May he be the lowest of servants to his relatives.”

²⁶Then Noah said,

“May the LORD, the God of Shem, be blessed,
and may Canaan be his servant!

²⁷ May God expand the territory of Japheth!
May Japheth share the prosperity of Shem,*
and may Canaan be his servant.”

²⁸Noah lived another 350 years after the great flood. ²⁹He lived 950 years, and then he died.

10 This is the account of the families of Shem, Ham, and Japheth, the three sons of Noah. Many children were born to them after the great flood.

DID YOU KNOW?

GOD'S PROMISE TO NOAH

God promised to never again destroy the earth with water.

This promise . . .

- was made to all humanity for all time, and
- came with a sign—the rainbow.

Descendants of Japheth

²The descendants of Japheth were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.

³The descendants of Gomer were Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah.

⁴The descendants of Javan were Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Rodanim.* ⁵Their descendants became the seafaring peoples that spread out to various lands, each identified by its own language, clan, and national identity.

Descendants of Ham

⁶The descendants of Ham were Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan.

⁷The descendants of Cush were Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabteca. The descendants of Raamah were Sheba and Dedan.

⁸Cush was also the ancestor of Nimrod, who was the first heroic warrior on earth. ⁹Since he was the greatest hunter in the world,* his name became proverbial.

People would say, “This man is like Nimrod, the greatest hunter in the world.”

¹⁰He built his kingdom in the land of Babylonia,* with the cities of Babylon,

9:27 Hebrew *May he live in the tents of Shem.* 10:4 As in some Hebrew manuscripts and Greek version (see also 1 Chr 1:7); most Hebrew manuscripts read *Dodanim.* 10:9 Hebrew *a great hunter before the LORD*; also in 10:9b. 10:10 Hebrew *Shinar.*

Erech, Akkad, and Calneh. ¹⁴From there he expanded his territory to Assyria,* building the cities of Nineveh, Rehoboth-ir, Calah, ¹²and Resen (the great city located between Nineveh and Calah).

¹³Mizraim was the ancestor of the Ludites, Anamites, Lehabites, Naphtuhites, ¹⁴Pathrusites, Casluhites, and the Caphthorites, from whom the Philistines came.*

¹⁵Canaan's oldest son was Sidon, the ancestor of the Sidonians. Canaan was also the ancestor of the Hittites,* ¹⁶Jebusites, Amorites, Girgashites, ¹⁷Hivites, Arkites, Sinites, ¹⁸Arvadites, Zemarites, and Hamathites. The Canaanite clans eventually spread out, ¹⁹and the territory of Canaan extended from Sidon in the north to Gerar and Gaza in the south, and east as far as Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, near Lasha.

²⁰These were the descendants of Ham, identified by clan, language, territory, and national identity.

Descendants of Shem

²¹Sons were also born to Shem, the older brother of Japheth.* Shem was the ancestor of all the descendants of Eber.

²²The descendants of Shem were Elam, Asshur, Arphaxad, Lud, and Aram.

²³The descendants of Aram were Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash.

²⁴Arphaxad was the father of Shelah,* and Shelah was the father of Eber.

²⁵Eber had two sons. The first was named Peleg (which means “division”), for during his lifetime the people of the world were divided into different language groups. His brother's name was Joktan.

²⁶Joktan was the ancestor of Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, ²⁷Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, ²⁸Obal, Abimael, Sheba, ²⁹Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. All these were descendants of Joktan. ³⁰The territory they occupied extended from Mesha all the way to Sephar in the eastern mountains.

³¹These were the descendants of Shem, identified by clan, language, territory, and national identity.

Conclusion

³²These are the clans that descended from Noah's sons, arranged by nation according to their lines of descent. All the nations of the earth descended from these clans after the great flood.

The Tower of Babel

11 At one time all the people of the world spoke the same language and used the same words. ²As the people migrated to the east, they found a plain in the land of Babylonia* and settled there.

³They began saying to each other, “Let's make bricks and harden them with fire.” (In this region bricks were used instead of stone, and tar was used for mortar.) ⁴Then they said, “Come, let's build a great city for ourselves with a tower that reaches into the sky. This will make us famous and keep us from being scattered all over the world.”

⁵But the LORD came down to look at the city and the tower the people were building. ⁶“Look!” he said. “The people are united, and they all speak the same language. After this, nothing they set out to do will be impossible for them! ⁷Come, let's go down and confuse the people with different languages. Then they won't be able to understand each other.”

⁸In that way, the LORD scattered them all over the world, and they stopped building the city. ⁹That is why the city was called Babel,* because that is where the LORD confused the people with different languages. In this way he scattered them all over the world.

The Line of Descent from Shem to Abram

¹⁰This is the account of Shem's family.

Two years after the great flood, when Shem was 100 years old, he became the father of* Arphaxad. ¹¹After the birth of*

10:11 Or *From that land Assyria went out.* **10:14** Hebrew *Casluhites, from whom the Philistines came, and Caphthorites.* Compare Jer 47:4; Amos 9:7. **10:15** Hebrew *ancestor of Heth.* **10:21** Or *Shem, whose older brother was Japheth.* **10:24** Greek version reads *Arphaxad was the father of Cainan, Cainan was the father of Shelah.* Compare Luke 3:36. **11:2** Hebrew *Shinar.* **11:9** Or *Babylon.* *Babel* sounds like a Hebrew term that means “confusion.” **11:10** Or *the ancestor of;* also in 11:12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24. **11:11** Or *the birth of this ancestor of;* also in 11:13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25.

DID YOU KNOW?

THE BEGINNING OF DIFFERENT LANGUAGES

Long ago, everyone on earth spoke the same language. Some of the people decided to build a tall tower that they thought would bring them closer to God. But God confused their language, which caused the people to scatter all over the earth (Genesis 11:1–9).

Arphaxad, Shem lived another 500 years and had other sons and daughters.

¹²When Arphaxad was 35 years old, he became the father of Shelah. ¹³After the birth of Shelah, Arphaxad lived another 403 years and had other sons and daughters.*

¹⁴When Shelah was 30 years old, he became the father of Eber. ¹⁵After the birth of Eber, Shelah lived another 403 years and had other sons and daughters.

¹⁶When Eber was 34 years old, he became the father of Peleg. ¹⁷After the birth of Peleg, Eber lived another 430 years and had other sons and daughters.

¹⁸When Peleg was 30 years old, he became the father of Reu. ¹⁹After the birth of Reu, Peleg lived another 209 years and had other sons and daughters.

²⁰When Reu was 32 years old, he became the father of Serug. ²¹After the birth of Serug, Reu lived another 207 years and had other sons and daughters.

²²When Serug was 30 years old, he became the father of Nahor. ²³After the birth of Nahor, Serug lived another 200 years and had other sons and daughters.

²⁴When Nahor was 29 years old, he became the father of Terah. ²⁵After the birth of Terah, Nahor lived another 119 years and had other sons and daughters.

²⁶After Terah was 70 years old, he became the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran.

The Family of Terah

²⁷This is the account of Terah's family. Terah was the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran was the father of Lot. ²⁸But Haran died in Ur of the Chaldeans, the land of his birth, while his father, Terah, was still living.

²⁹Meanwhile, Abram and Nahor both married. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife was Milcah. (Milcah and her sister Iscah were daughters of Nahor's brother Haran.) ³⁰But Sarai was unable to become pregnant and had no children.

³¹One day Terah took his son Abram, his daughter-in-law Sarai (his son Abram's wife), and his grandson Lot (his son Haran's child) and moved away from Ur of the Chaldeans. He was headed for the land of Canaan, but they stopped at Haran and settled there. ³²Terah lived for 205 years* and died while still in Haran.

The Call of Abram

12 The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. ²I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. ³I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you."

⁴So Abram departed as the LORD had instructed, and Lot went with him. Abram was

11:12–13 Greek version reads ¹²When Arphaxad was 135 years old, he became the father of Cainan. ¹³After the birth of Cainan, Arphaxad lived another 430 years and had other sons and daughters, and then he died. When Cainan was 130 years old, he became the father of Shelah. After the birth of Shelah, Cainan lived another 330 years and had other sons and daughters, and then he died. Compare Luke 3:35–36. **11:32** Some ancient versions read 145 years; compare 11:26 and 12:4.

DID YOU
KNOW?

ABRAHAM

- Abraham's many acts of obedience and trust showed his faith in God.
- He was called a friend of God (2 Chronicles 20:7; James 2:23).
- Abraham lived 175 years.

seventy-five years old when he left Haran. ⁵He took his wife, Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all his wealth—his livestock and all the people he had taken into his household at Haran—and headed for the land of Canaan. When they arrived in Canaan, ⁶Abram traveled through the land as far as Shechem. There he set up camp beside the oak of Moreh. At that time, the area was inhabited by Canaanites.

⁷Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "I will give this land to your descendants." And Abram built an altar there and dedicated it to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸After that, Abram traveled south and set up camp in the hill country, with Bethel to the west and Ai to the east. There he built

12:7 Hebrew *seed*.

another altar and dedicated it to the LORD, and he worshiped the LORD. ⁹Then Abram continued traveling south by stages toward the Negev.

Abram and Sarai in Egypt

¹⁰At that time a severe famine struck the land of Canaan, forcing Abram to go down to Egypt, where he lived as a foreigner. ¹¹As he was approaching the border of Egypt, Abram said to his wife, Sarai, "Look, you are a very beautiful woman. ¹²When the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife. Let's kill him; then we can have her!' ¹³So please tell them you are my sister. Then they will spare my life and treat me well because of their interest in you."

¹⁴And sure enough, when Abram arrived in Egypt, everyone noticed Sarai's beauty. ¹⁵When the palace officials saw her, they sang her praises to Pharaoh, their king, and Sarai was taken into his palace. ¹⁶Then Pharaoh gave Abram many gifts because of her—sheep, goats, cattle, male and female donkeys, male and female servants, and camels.

¹⁷But the LORD sent terrible plagues upon Pharaoh and his household because of Sarai, Abram's wife. ¹⁸So Pharaoh summoned Abram and accused him sharply. "What have you done to me?" he demanded. "Why didn't you tell me she was your wife? ¹⁹Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' and allow me to take her as my wife? Now then, here is your wife. Take her and get out of here!" ²⁰Pharaoh ordered

DID YOU
KNOW?

EGYPT

- Abraham and Sarah went to live in Egypt when famine struck the land of Canaan.
- God sent Moses to Egypt to free the Israelites and lead them to the Promised Land (see Exodus 3:1–15).
- Mary and Joseph took the child Jesus to Egypt to escape Herod's order to kill all boys under the age of two in the vicinity (Matthew 2:14).

some of his men to escort them, and he sent Abram out of the country, along with his wife and all his possessions.

Abram and Lot Separate

13 So Abram left Egypt and traveled north into the Negev, along with his wife and Lot and all that they owned. ²(Abram was very rich in livestock, silver, and gold.) ³From the Negev, they continued traveling by stages toward Bethel, and they pitched their tents between Bethel and Ai, where they had camped before. ⁴This was the same place where Abram had built the altar, and there he worshiped the LORD again.

⁵Lot, who was traveling with Abram, had also become very wealthy with flocks of sheep and goats, herds of cattle, and many tents. ⁶But the land could not support both Abram and Lot with all their flocks and herds living so close together. ⁷So disputes broke out between the herdsmen of Abram and Lot. (At that time Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land.)

⁸Finally Abram said to Lot, “Let’s not allow this conflict to come between us or our herdsmen. After all, we are close relatives! ⁹The whole countryside is open to you. Take your choice of any section of the land you want, and we will separate. If you want the land to the left, then I’ll take the land on the right. If you prefer the land on the right, then I’ll go to the left.”

¹⁰Lot took a long look at the fertile plains of the Jordan Valley in the direction of Zoar. The whole area was well watered everywhere, like the garden of the LORD or the beautiful land of Egypt. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) ¹¹Lot chose for himself the whole Jordan Valley to the east of them. He went there with his flocks and servants and parted company with his uncle Abram. ¹²So Abram settled in the land of Canaan, and Lot moved his tents to a place near Sodom and settled among the cities of the plain. ¹³But the people of this area were extremely wicked and constantly sinned against the LORD.

¹⁴After Lot had gone, the LORD said to Abram, “Look as far as you can see in every

direction—north and south, east and west. ¹⁵I am giving all this land, as far as you can see, to you and your descendants* as a permanent possession. ¹⁶And I will give you so many descendants that, like the dust of the earth, they cannot be counted! ¹⁷Go and walk through the land in every direction, for I am giving it to you.”

¹⁸So Abram moved his camp to Hebron and settled near the oak grove belonging to Mamre. There he built another altar to the LORD.

Abram Rescues Lot

14 About this time war broke out in the region. King Amraphel of Babylonia,* King Arioch of Ellasar, King Kedorlaomer of Elam, and King Tidal of Goiim ²fought against King Bera of Sodom, King Birsha of Gomorrah, King Shinab of Admah, King Shemeber of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (also called Zoar).

³This second group of kings joined forces in Siddim Valley (that is, the valley of the Dead Sea*). ⁴For twelve years they had been subject to King Kedorlaomer, but in the thirteenth year they rebelled against him.

⁵One year later Kedorlaomer and his allies arrived and defeated the Rephaites at Ashteroth-karnaim, the Zuzites at Ham, the Emmites at Shaveh-kiriathaim, ⁶and the Horites at Mount Seir, as far as El-paran at the edge of the wilderness. ⁷Then they turned back and came to En-mishpat (now called Kadesh) and conquered all the territory of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites living in Hazazon-tamar.

⁸Then the rebel kings of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim, and Bela (also called Zoar) prepared for battle in the valley of the Dead Sea.* ⁹They fought against King Kedorlaomer of Elam, King Tidal of Goiim, King Amraphel of Babylonia, and King Arioch of Ellasar—four kings against five. ¹⁰As it happened, the valley of the Dead Sea was filled with tar pits. And as the army of the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, some fell into the tar pits, while the rest escaped into the mountains. ¹¹The victorious invaders then plundered Sodom and Gomorrah and headed for home,

13:15 Hebrew *seed*; also in 13:16. 14:1 Hebrew *Shinar*; also in 14:9. 14:3 Hebrew *Salt Sea*. 14:8 Hebrew *Siddim Valley* (see 14:3); also in 14:10.

OPEN YOUR HEART

- . . . to God. He is the only one
- who can change you from
- the inside out.

taking with them all the spoils of war and the food supplies. ¹²They also captured Lot—Abram’s nephew who lived in Sodom—and carried off everything he owned.

¹³But one of Lot’s men escaped and reported everything to Abram the Hebrew, who was living near the oak grove belonging to Mamre the Amorite. Mamre and his relatives, Eshcol and Aner, were Abram’s allies.

¹⁴When Abram heard that his nephew Lot had been captured, he mobilized the 318 trained men who had been born into his household. Then he pursued Kedorlaomer’s army until he caught up with them at Dan. ¹⁵There he divided his men and attacked during the night. Kedorlaomer’s army fled, but Abram chased them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus. ¹⁶Abram recovered all the goods that had been taken, and he brought back his nephew Lot with his possessions and all the women and other captives.

Melchizedek Blesses Abram

¹⁷After Abram returned from his victory over Kedorlaomer and all his allies, the king of Sodom went out to meet him in the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King’s Valley).

¹⁸And Melchizedek, the king of Salem and a priest of God Most High,* brought Abram some bread and wine. ¹⁹Melchizedek blessed Abram with this blessing:

- “Blessed be Abram by God Most High,
 Creator of heaven and earth.
²⁰ And blessed be God Most High,
 who has defeated your enemies for you.”

Then Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of all the goods he had recovered.

²¹The king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give back my people who were captured. But you may keep for yourself all the goods you have recovered.”

²²Abram replied to the king of Sodom, “I solemnly swear to the LORD, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, ²³that I will not take so much as a single thread or sandal thong from what belongs to you. Otherwise you might say, ‘I am the one who made Abram rich.’ ²⁴I will accept only what my young warriors have already eaten, and I request that you give a fair share of the goods to my allies—Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre.”

The LORD’s Covenant Promise to Abram

15 Some time later, the LORD spoke to Abram in a vision and said to him, “Do not be afraid, Abram, for I will protect you, and your reward will be great.”

²But Abram replied, “O Sovereign LORD, what good are all your blessings when I don’t even have a son? Since you’ve given me no children, Eliezer of Damascus, a servant in my household, will inherit all my wealth. ³You have given me no descendants of my own, so one of my servants will be my heir.”

⁴Then the LORD said to him, “No, your servant will not be your heir, for you will have a son of your own who will be your heir.” ⁵Then the LORD took Abram outside and said to him, “Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That’s how many descendants you will have!”

⁶And Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD counted him as righteous because of his faith.

⁷Then the LORD told him, “I am the LORD who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as your possession.”

⁸But Abram replied, “O Sovereign LORD, how can I be sure that I will actually possess it?”

⁹The LORD told him, “Bring me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” ¹⁰So Abram presented all these to him and killed them. Then he cut each animal down the middle and laid the halves side by side; he did not, however, cut the birds in half. ¹¹Some vultures swooped down to eat the carcasses, but Abram chased them away.

¹²As the sun was going down, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a terrifying darkness came down over him. ¹³Then the LORD said to Abram, “You can be sure that your descendants



*Special
Features*

Women and Girls of the Bible



The Bible includes stories of many women and girls who followed God with all their heart. I have highlighted fifty of them in this Bible for you! Here's a list of them along with the page where you'll find a brief biography about them and what they can teach us today.

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Highlighted Verses



These are just some of the wonderful passages of Scripture that can help you live every day as a girl after God's own heart. Each one is highlighted in this Bible along with a brief statement to help you apply it to your life. If you would like to begin planting God's Word in your heart, you could choose verses from this list and check them off when you have memorized them.

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Devotions



A girl after God's own heart not only learns about God's Word but also applies it to her everyday life. Each of these brief devotions and prayers will help you live out the truths of the Bible as you grow deeper in your relationship with God.

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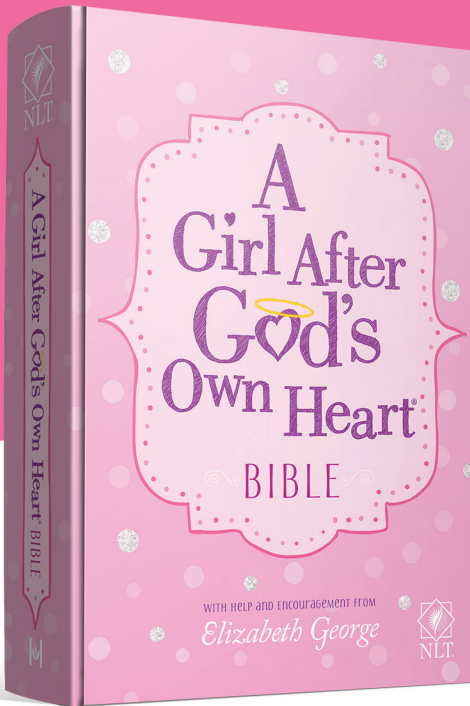
What God Says About...



Do you ever wonder what the Bible says about practical things like your relationship with your parents, discovering God's will for your life, and learning how to make good choices? Here is a list of the brief but helpful explanations you'll find in your *Girl After God's Own Heart Bible*.

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THIS BIBLE Was Made FOR YOU!

Learn all about who God is, how much He loves you, and His wonderful plans for you.



dozens of devotions and prayers to help you grow closer to God

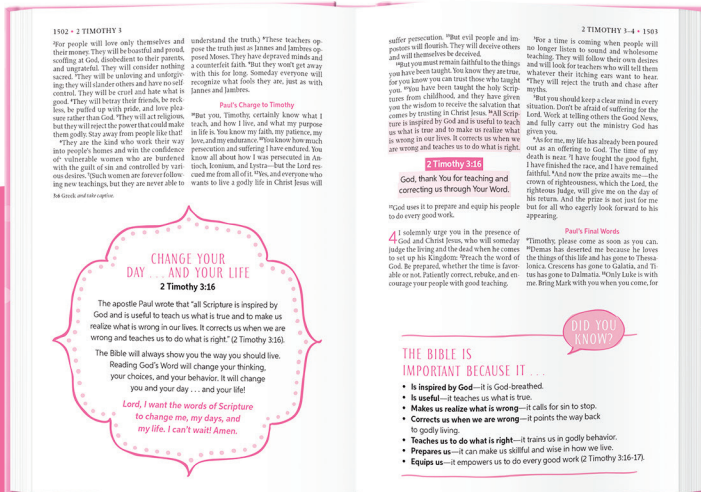


fun facts on people, places, and things in Bible times



great advice from God's Word on friendship, peer pressure, and self-image

...and so much more!



1502 • 2 TIMOTHY 3
 "For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be hostile and proud, scoffing at God, disobeying their parents and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. They will be unloving and unloving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that. "They are the kind who work their way into people's homes and win the confidence of vulnerable women who are burdened with the guilt of sin and controlled by various demons. Such women are never following new teachings, but they are never able to

understand the truth." These teachers oppress the truth just as James and Limbo opposed Moses. They have depraved minds and a counterfeit faith. But they won't get away with this for long. Someday everyone will recognize what fools they are, just as with Ismael and Lambert.

Paul's Charge to Timothy

"What you, Timothy, certainly know what I teach, and how I live, and what my purpose in life is. You know my faith, my patience, my love, and my endurance. You know how much persecution and suffering I have endured. You know all about how I was persecuted in Smyrna, Ikonium, and Lystra—but the Lord rescued me from all of it. Now, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will

suffer persecution." But evil people and impostors will flourish. They will deceive others and will themselves be deceived. "But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you. You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach, to correct, to train, and to make us mature, so that we will be able to make us realize when we are wrong and to correct us, so that we can do what is right.

2 Timothy 3:16

God's Word is for teaching and correcting us through our Word.

God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

2 TIMOTHY 3-4 • 1503
 "The time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth and chase after myths. "But you should keep a clear mind in every situation. Don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord, for telling others the Good News, and fully carry out the ministry God has given you. "And now, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near. I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me, but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.

Paul's Final Words
 Timothy, please come as soon as you can. Demas has deserted me because he loves the things of this life and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus has gone to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Bring Mark with you when you come, for

CHANGE YOUR DAY
 AND YOUR LIFE
 2 Timothy 3:16

The apostle Paul wrote that "all Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right." (2 Timothy 3:16)

The Bible will always show you the way you should live. Reading God's Word will change your thinking, your choices, and your behavior. It will change you and your day... and your life!

Lord, I want the words of Scripture to change me, my days, and my life. I can't wait! Amen.

DID YOU KNOW?

THE BIBLE IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT...

- Is inspired by God—it is God-breathed.
- Is useful—it teaches us what is true.
- Makes us realize what is wrong—it calls for sin to stop.
- Corrects us when we are wrong—it points the way back to godly living.
- Teaches us to do what is right—it trains us in godly behavior.
- Prepares us—it can make us skilled and wise in how we live.
- Equips us—it empowers us to do every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

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