



CHRIST
IN ALL THE
SCRIPTURES

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CHRIST
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SCRIPTURES

*Read and Pray Through
The Bible in a Year*

WRITTEN BY

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NEW TESTAMENT

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Introduction

Have you ever read a passage of Scripture and thought, “What exactly does this mean, and what am I supposed to get out of it?” If you have, you’re not alone. Some parts of God’s Word are easy to understand, while others require more study. One of the first and most important things we have to do is understand that the Bible is one story, and it points to One Person.

In Luke 24 we read the account of two disciples of Christ traveling to a town called Emmaus. It was the same Sunday when Jesus rose from the dead. They were joined by a stranger ... or so they thought Him to be. When asked what they were talking about, they told Him about this Jesus whom they hoped would be the Messiah, how He was killed

on a cross, and how some of the believing women reported that His tomb was empty.

But then something happened they didn't expect.

This stranger began to teach: "*He said to them, 'How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?' And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself*" (24:25–27). This was actually the risen Christ, hidden from their eyes, saying that all of God's Word points to Him.

At Haven Ministries we love to share the great story that's all about Jesus. It's easy to say, but sometimes it's difficult to see exactly how the entire Bible points to Christ. Will you join us as we go through the Scriptures book by book? Along the way, we'll see even more of our Great Savior. And as with those two disciples on the road to Emmaus, Jesus will often show up where we least expect Him.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

Over the next 365 days, you will journey through the entire Bible. This book is designed not only to help you find Jesus in the text, but also to pray to Jesus throughout your journey into God's Word. This is done in three ways:

1. DAILY READINGS

Each day you will read through 2-4 chapters of the Bible at a time. If you find yourself missing a day or two, just pick up where you left off. Move at the pace you are comfortable with, and don't feel pressure to skip ahead. Certainly there is great reason to celebrate reading the entire Bible in one year, but opening your heart and mind for the Holy Spirit to draw you nearer to Jesus is far greater. This also will allow you to better meditate through weekly prayers on what you've read.

2. WEEKLY PRAYERS

Each week, this book will provide you with a new prayer that is drawn from the corresponding week's Scripture readings. Pray it. Meditate on it. Let it grow within you. By having you repeat one prayer every day over a section of readings, it is our hope that the Spirit behind each verse will become more real to you, and that you will draw nearer to the Father through Jesus in your daily life. Though you will pray the same words each day for a week, we are confident they will hold new meaning by day seven.

3. BOOK INTRODUCTIONS

Before you begin each new book of the Bible, you will be presented with a book overview that includes helpful insights and details about the book and how it points to Christ. This valuable background information will help you better understand the reading ahead. But, don't worry! We know you'll be doing a lot of reading over the next 12 months, so while they are chock-full of Christ-focused content, we've kept these short.

We hope you will find this to be a valuable reading and prayer guide through Scripture. However, as you embark on this journey to read through the entire Bible, our utmost prayer is that you come away with Jesus.



OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis

“Once upon a time.”

We’ve all heard these familiar words. They tell us that a story is just beginning — the stage is being set. After all, every good story begins somewhere. And the great story that’s all about Jesus is no different. Actually, there is one big difference: this story starts at the beginning of time. That’s when God created the heavens and the earth. Maybe we don’t think about that enough.

Everything we have ever seen, touched, smelled, heard, and tasted is the result of God creating all things out of nothing. And because He created it all, He also owns it all. He is the King above all kings. This Creator King made the first man and woman. Think about it: God spoke

everything into existence, except for humankind. The Lord stooped down and hand-crafted the first human couple. He gave them everything they needed, but He also gave them commands.

We know what happened, of course. The serpent deceived Eve, she ate, and she gave the fruit to Adam. He ate, too. That's where it all went wrong. Every human being who has been born since then is a sinner, with the exception of Jesus. And speaking of Him, how do we see Christ in Genesis? Well, He shows up at the beginning. We read the first promise of the gospel in Genesis 3:15. Speaking to the serpent (who is the devil), the Lord said, "*I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.*"

From the start our God was gracious to sinners (and Genesis has no shortage of them!). The first 11 chapters fly through generation after generation. Century after century passes into the rearview mirror. And then, in chapter 12, it slows to a snail's pace. Why? Because the main characters are finally here. Genesis is the story of how the Lord set apart a people for Himself. He promised that One Seed of the woman would come. Then He revealed Himself to one man: Abram. Chapters 12-

50 encompass only four generations. God promises all of them that He will be gracious to them, and that through their family line the One promised in Genesis 3:15 will come.

The book ends with the descendants of Abraham shepherding sheep in Egypt, which makes sense because this book was written to the Exodus generation of Israelites. It was a prologue, telling them how, instead of the so-called gods and goddesses of Egypt, the Lord made and rules over everything. It tells of how God had set them and their ancestors apart for Himself, and how they eventually reached the Promised Land.

Once upon a time...

WEEK 1

GENESIS 1 – 25

Our Great Father in heaven, we praise You for Your wonderful power over all things. You spoke and created everything out of nothing. You sustain all things. If You withdrew Your upholding hand, all of creation would fade into nothingness. But beyond this, we also see Your goodness and love to us. You responded with grace and mercy when Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden. You promised a Seed who would come and redeem us, defeating Satan in the process. You are the promise-keeping God, and we know that You have kept Your Word. Jesus Christ lived and died and rose again for us, and everyone on earth has been blessed in Him. We read about Your faithfulness to Abraham and Isaac, and we know You will remain faithful to us, too. May your name be praised, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

AMEN.

- ☐ *Day 1:* Genesis 1–4
- ☐ *Day 2:* Genesis 5–8
- ☐ *Day 3:* Genesis 9–12
- ☐ *Day 4:* Genesis 13–17

- ☐ *Day 5:* Genesis 18–20
- ☐ *Day 6:* Genesis 21–23
- ☐ *Day 7:* Genesis 24–25

WEEK 2

GENESIS 26 – 46

Oh, Lord, You are the One who provides for Your people. We know that every good gift, even every breath we take, comes to us from Your loving hand. We recognize that we often sin in the same ways that our ancestors did, just as Isaac failed in the same way his father Abraham failed. But You don't deal with us according to what our sin deserves. Truly You are full of grace and mercy for sinners such as us! We confess our sins to You and throw ourselves on the mercy and grace we find in Christ. We read how good You are in raising up Joseph who was treated so harshly. We know this is a picture of our Lord Jesus, who was mistreated — the Sinless One slaughtered in the place of sinners. Yet you raised Him up, not only out of the grave, but to sit at Your right hand even now. We come to You in prayer, knowing that we don't deserve to be heard because of who we are or what we have done, but only because we come in Christ's precious and powerful name.

AMEN.

- *Day 8:* Genesis 26–28
- *Day 9:* Genesis 29–31
- *Day 10:* Genesis 32–35
- *Day 11:* Genesis 36–38

- *Day 12:* Genesis 39–41
- *Day 13:* Genesis 42–43
- *Day 14:* Genesis 44–46

Exodus

Genesis ended on a high note. Even though Jacob died, the Lord used Joseph to save his family. The people of God were now safe and successful within the borders of Egypt, one of the superpowers of the day. God was really fulfilling His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, wasn't He? But every story has its ups and downs. And the great story that's all about Jesus is no different. "*Then a new king, who did not know about Joseph, came to power in Egypt*" (1:8). The Israelites became slaves in Egypt. Would God keep the promises He made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? Who was really in charge here, Pharaoh or the Lord? Would God redeem a sinful people? Exodus answers these questions, and it does so by showing that the Lord is

not only *great*, He is also *good*. As Yahweh Himself says, “*They will know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them out of Egypt so that I might dwell among them. I am the LORD their God*” (29:46). He delivered them *from* oppression and bondage, *into* His own presence.

But we’re getting ahead of ourselves. Before God could dwell among His people, He had to deliver them. So the Lord went to war. First He chose and sent His ambassador, Moses, with a message to let God’s people go. When Pharaoh didn’t listen, the One True God declared holy war against the Egyptian false gods. Each of the plagues He sent was an attack on one of the Egyptian idols. It quickly became clear that Yahweh alone is God. Pharaoh and his false gods were powerless to stop Him. So Pharaoh let the people go. Finally, after four centuries, the people of God were free again! But then Pharaoh had a change of heart. God used the Red Sea to deliver His people and to bring judgment on their enemies.

That’s the first part of the book of Exodus — God easily delivering His people from one of the most powerful rulers of the day. Then we come to the second part of the book, God living with these sinful complainers without killing them. He

brought them to Mount Sinai and gave them the Ten Commandments. But as Moses was still hearing from the Lord, the people were at the base of the mountain creating an idol. It was like committing adultery on the wedding night.

They had no more physical chains, but the spiritual chains of sin remained. God had redeemed them outwardly, yet they needed to be redeemed spiritually. And while they waited for the Seed of the woman and the Offspring of Abraham to come, they needed to be kept separate from God. He would dwell in their midst, but there must be barriers between a holy God and His sinful people. Specifically, there had to be curtains. The Lord gave Moses instructions for the tabernacle where Israel's King would put His special presence, keeping the sinful people from coming too close.

Much of the rest of the Old Testament asks this question: "Who can draw near to God?" We will find that the answer is Jesus, and through Him we also have access to our Father. The curtain has been torn from top to bottom. A new, better Moses has led us through the great Exodus. Destination: the New Heavens and Earth.

WEEK 3

GENESIS 47–EXODUS 20

Oh, great and powerful God, nothing ever catches You by surprise. You used the cruel treatment of Joseph by his brothers to save them and the world. As Joseph said, what man intended for evil, You intended for good. Though a famine threatened Your promise made to Abraham, You preserved humanity so that Your saving purposes would continue. Though Pharaoh planned to destroy the Israelites, You used an Israelite growing up in Pharaoh's house to set Your people free! From famines, to persecution, even to the death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You've used these dark moments for Your glory and the deliverance of Your people. Remind us of this truth when we're in times of suffering. We pray this in Jesus' name.

AMEN.

□ *Day 15:* Genesis 47–50

□ *Day 16:* Exodus 1–4

□ *Day 17:* Exodus 5–7

□ *Day 18:* Exodus 8–10

□ *Day 19:* Exodus 11–13

□ *Day 20:* Exodus 14–16

□ *Day 21:* Exodus 17–20