



Good News Chapel, Trinidad
A Seventh-day Adventist Church



VISION2030

CHAPTER BY CHAPTER READING PLAN

2026

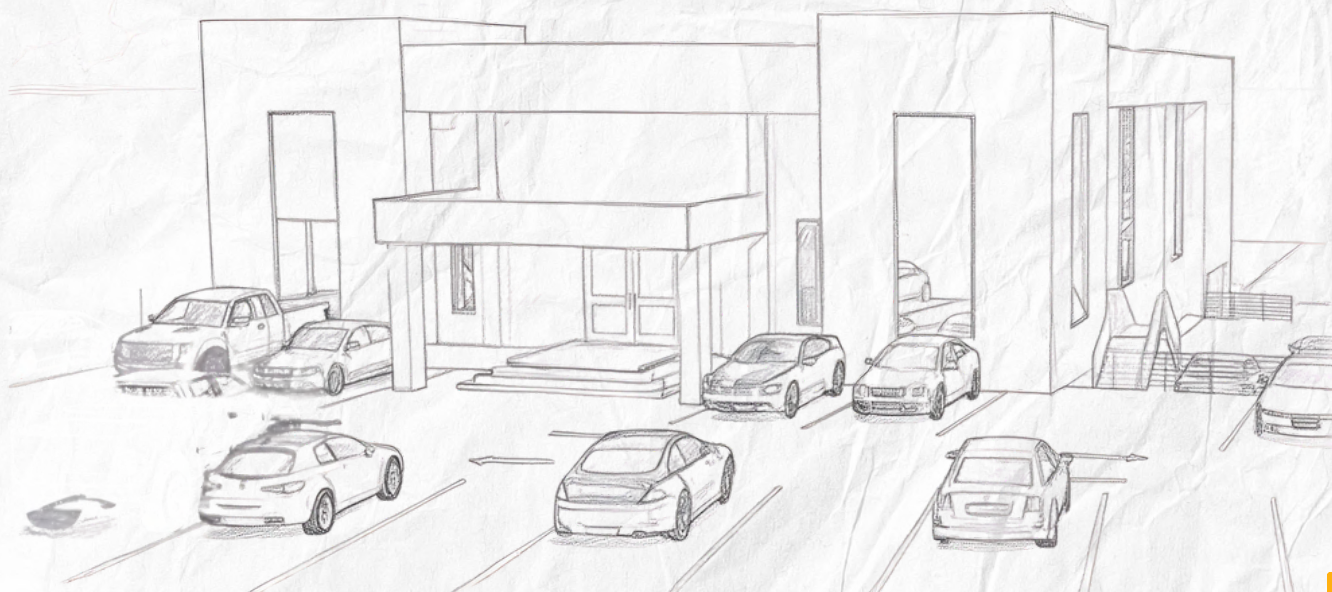
ABOUT VISION 2030

VISION2030 sets before us the ambitious objective of completing the construction of our new church facility by December 2030, with the groundbreaking exercise taking place during the church's 35th anniversary celebrations in August 2029.

VISION2030 is intentionally structured around four interdependent pillars:

1. Spiritual Formation
2. Sustainable Funding
3. Intentional Inclusion
4. Strategic Investment

Spiritual Formation serves as the foundation of this vision. It centers on the church's commitment to give to its members by intentionally nurturing spiritual growth, biblical literacy, and shared theological grounding. This pillar establishes the values, trust, and long-term vision necessary for any major undertaking.



ABOUT THE READING PLAN



Welcome to the 2026 Reading Plan — the first year of our wider four-year journey through Scripture. Throughout this year, we will walk together through the books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, and Judges, exploring the foundations of the biblical story and discovering what these books reveal about God, His people, and His purposes.

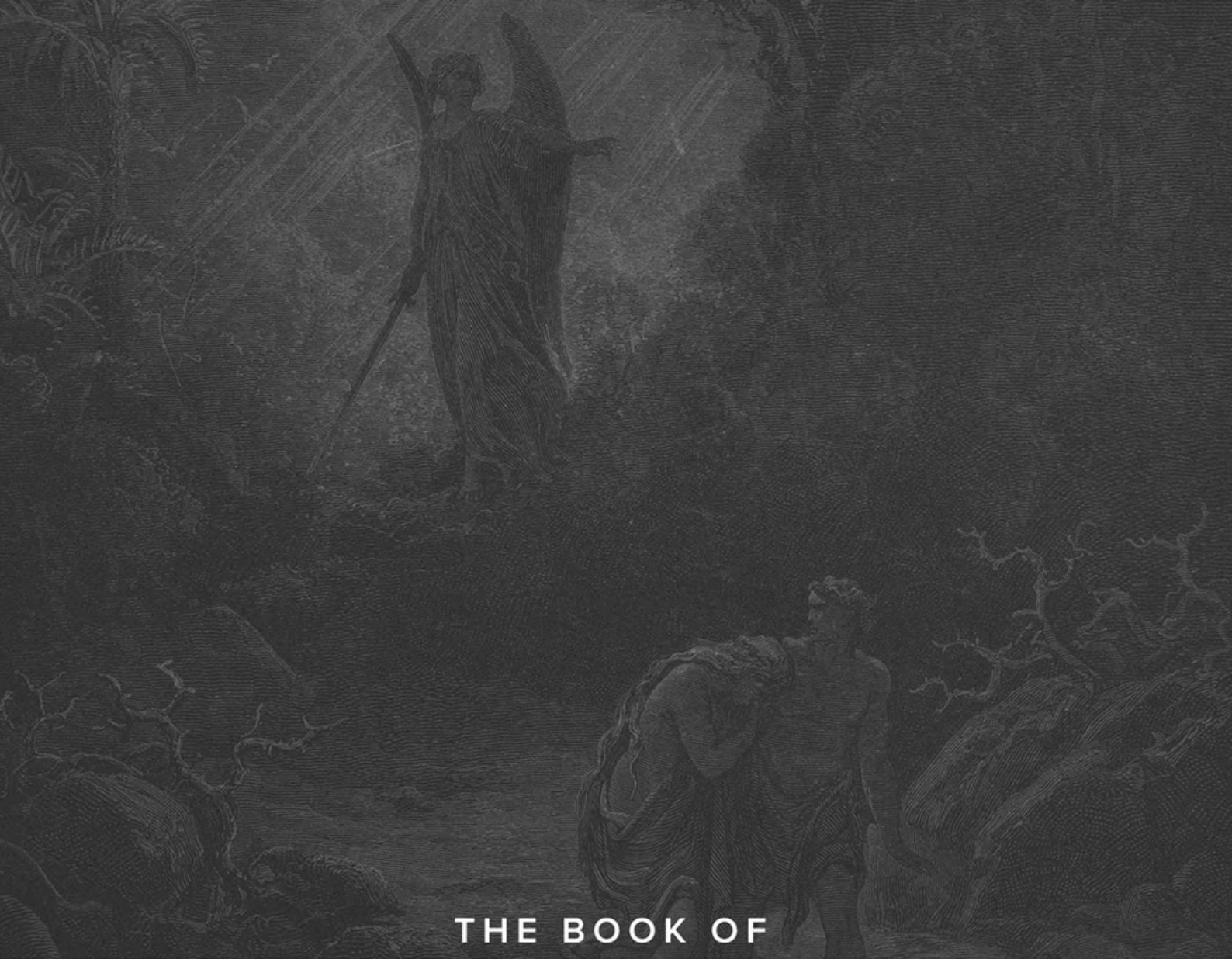
Each book begins with a short introductory section designed to provide a general overview, helping you better understand the themes, context, and key ideas before you begin reading. From there, the plan follows a simple rhythm of one chapter per day, allowing space for thoughtful reflection, consistency, and spiritual growth throughout the year.

You will also notice special markers throughout the plan. Sabbath readings are highlighted in yellow, while Wednesday night readings are highlighted in black, helping align our personal study with the rhythm of our church family and worship gatherings.

While this plan can certainly be completed individually, we encourage you to journey through it with others. Read together with a friend, your family, your small group, or accountability partner. Discuss what you are learning, ask questions, and encourage one another along the way. We also invite you to follow along during our church services as many of the readings and themes will connect with our shared worship experience throughout the year.

Our prayer is that this reading plan would not simply help us read more Scripture, but that it would help Scripture shape us more deeply into the people God is calling us to be.





THE BOOK OF

GENESIS



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GENESIS



THE GIFT OF LIFE

Genesis is the book of beginnings—the place where the Bible begins and where life on this earth begins. This chapter reveals a powerful theme: God as the giver and preserver of life.

Creation and the Gift of Companionship

When God created Adam, He placed all the rest of life in human care and keeping. Yet there was more to God's plan than mere caretakers. He created beings in His own image because He wanted fellowship with them—He wanted their friendship.

The creation of Eve revealed God's heart for relationship. When Adam named her "woman" (the feminine form of man), he recognized her as the gift of life—someone like him with whom he could share life on the deepest levels.

**"GOD CREATED BEINGS IN HIS OWN IMAGE
EXPRESSLY BECAUSE HE WANTED THEIR FRIENDSHIP."**

The Sabbath: Spiritual Creation

When God finished creating the physical earth, He set aside a special time for spiritual development—for developing a relationship between Himself and the ones created in His image. He blessed the seventh day and made it holy.

On this day, God would rest physically, and humans would rest physically. But God's work of creation would continue on a spiritual level, as those created in His image became friends with their God and grew to be more and more like Him.



GENESIS

THE GIFT OF LIFE



From Tragedy to Hope: The Naming of Eve

After the tragedy of sin, something amazing happened. It was only then that Adam gave Eve her name. And the name he chose makes the story even more astonishing.

Genesis 3:20 says, “The man called his wife Eve because she was the mother of all who live.” In Hebrew, Eve means “Life.” After the great tragedy of sin that led to death, Adam looked at his wife and called her Life! She was indeed the gift of life, for without her, human life could not continue through descendants.

“AFTER THE GREAT TRAGEDY OF SIN THAT LED TO DEATH, ADAM LOOKED AT HIS WIFE AND GAVE HER A NAME: LIFE!”

Preserving Life Through the Flood

Even in the terrible story of the Flood, where so much life was lost, God made provisions for life to go on. He warned Noah and told him to bring “two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive.”

God made it plain that He was not in the business of destroying life, but of preserving it. At the end of the Flood, God made a covenant with all living things, promising never again to destroy all life on the earth.

Abraham and the Promise of a Savior

The most powerful story about the preservation of life is found in Genesis 22—Abraham’s journey with his son Isaac to Mount Moriah. When Abraham answered his son’s question about the sacrifice with “God will provide,” his words sprang from deep understanding of the God he worshipped.



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GENESIS

THE GIFT OF LIFE



The story ends with the gift of life and a promise. God provided a substitute—a ram sacrificed in place of Isaac. This points to the marvelous promise of a Savior who would one day sacrifice His life on a mountain near Moriah to give life to all who would accept the gift.

**“GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON,
THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH.”
— JOHN 3:16**

The Central Theme

Genesis is the story of the Gift of Life—the story of God’s grace bursting forth in life for humanity, over and over again. From creation to covenant, from the naming of Eve to Abraham’s faith, and through Joseph’s miraculous preservation of thousands during famine, one truth emerges:

God is not in the business of destroying life, but of preserving it.

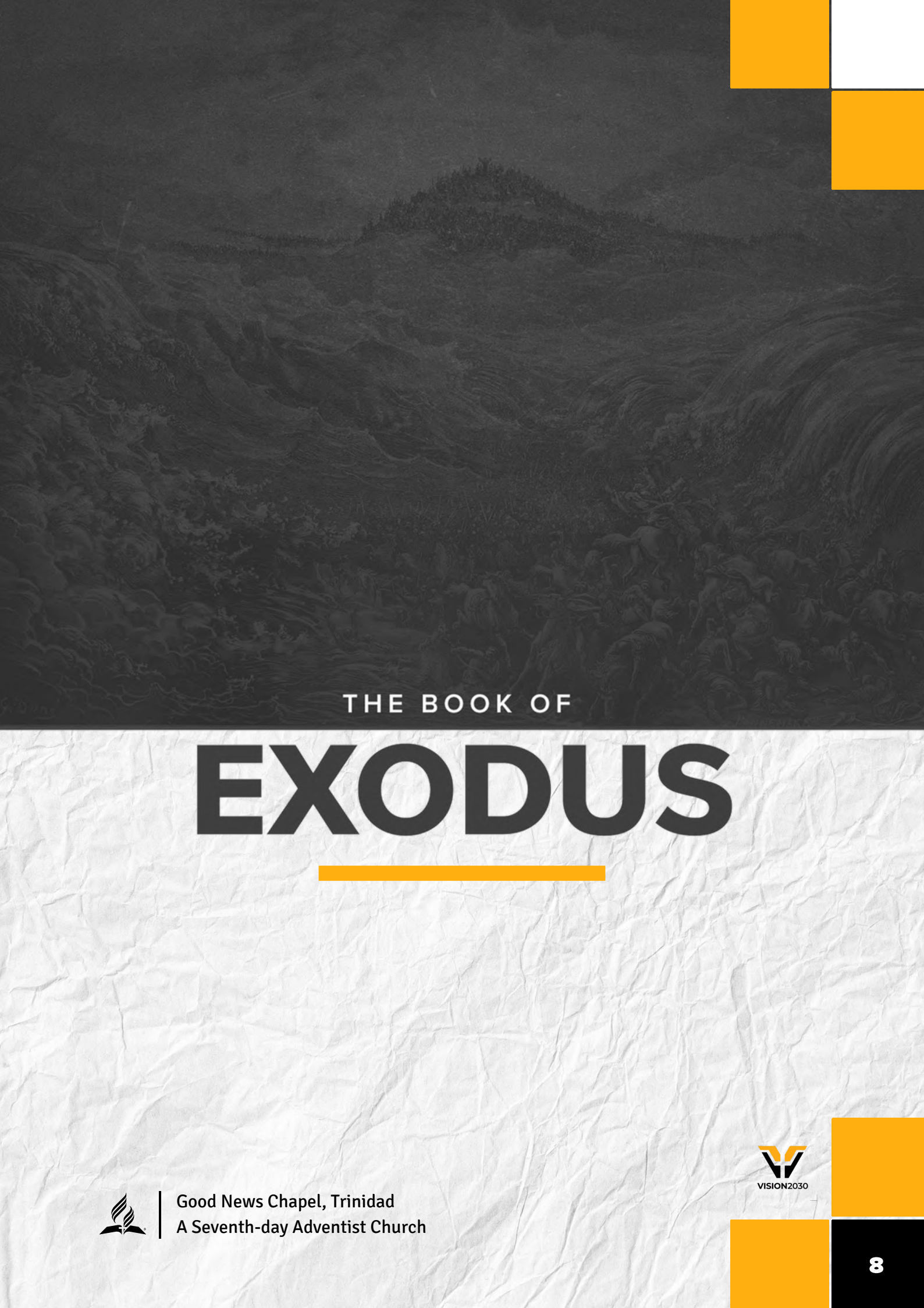


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GENESIS

June 6	Genesis 1	June 24	Genesis 19	July 12	Genesis 37
June 7	Genesis 2	June 25	Genesis 20	July 13	Genesis 38
June 8	Genesis 3	June 26	Genesis 21	July 14	Genesis 39
June 9	Genesis 4	June 27	Genesis 22	July 15	Genesis 40
June 10	Genesis 5	June 28	Genesis 23	July 16	Genesis 41
June 11	Genesis 6	June 29	Genesis 24	July 17	Genesis 42
June 12	Genesis 7	June 30	Genesis 25	July 18	Genesis 43
June 13	Genesis 8	July 1	Genesis 26	July 19	Genesis 44
June 14	Genesis 9	July 2	Genesis 27	July 20	Genesis 45
June 15	Genesis 10	July 3	Genesis 28	July 21	Genesis 46
June 16	Genesis 11	July 4	Genesis 29	July 22	Genesis 47
June 17	Genesis 12	July 5	Genesis 30	July 23	Genesis 48
June 18	Genesis 13	July 6	Genesis 31	July 24	Genesis 49
June 19	Genesis 14	July 7	Genesis 32	July 25	Genesis 50
June 20	Genesis 15	July 8	Genesis 33		
June 21	Genesis 16	July 9	Genesis 34		
June 22	Genesis 17	July 10	Genesis 35		
June 23	Genesis 18	July 11	Genesis 36		





THE BOOK OF

EXODUS



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EXODUS



FREE TO FOLLOW

Memory Fade Syndrome

It is remarkably easy to forget the depth of past miseries when confronted with present difficulties. For the Israelites, their newly acquired freedom quickly lost its shine as they faced the harsh realities of the desert. Sitting around campfires, dealing with sand and fleas, they began to romanticize their enslavement in Egypt. They suffered from a collective amnesia, forgetting the brutal taskmasters who demanded impossible quotas of bricks, and conveniently overlooking the horrific reality of their infant boys being thrown into the Nile River. Instead of seeing Moses as their deliverer, they began to view him as the architect of their current discomfort, blaming him for angering Pharaoh and disrupting what they now falsely remembered as a peaceful existence.

Freedom's Burden

Exodus is profoundly a book about liberation, but it also reveals that freedom is not merely the absence of chains; it comes with heavy responsibilities. When God liberated His people, they quickly discovered the weight of this new autonomy. The deliverance of the Israelites serves as a timeless metaphor for how God frees us from the bondage of sin. Yet, much like the Israelites, when we are freed from destructive habits, the sudden requirement to take responsibility for our new lives can make those old, familiar chains look appealing again. We find ourselves longing for the very things that were destroying us, simply because they were comfortable and known.

"GOD WANTS TO FREE US FROM BONDAGE—EVEN THOUGH HE KNOWS THAT ONCE WE'RE FREE, WE MAY BLAME HIM FOR THE DIFFICULTIES WE ENCOUNTER WHILE EXERCISING THE FREEDOM HE HAS GIVEN US!"



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EXODUS

FREE TO FOLLOW



Red Sea Crisis

God's approach to leading His people was not always the most straightforward path. To demonstrate His undeniable power and to teach the Israelites complete trust, He deliberately led them in a manner that appeared confusing, prompting the Egyptians to believe they were lost. When Pharaoh's army came in hot pursuit, the joy of liberation evaporated, instantly replaced by paralyzing fear. Without the grim security of their predictable slave lives, the Israelites panicked, sarcastically questioning Moses if there were no graves in Egypt that he had to bring them into the wilderness to die. Yet, in this moment of profound crisis, God dramatically delivered them by parting the Red Sea, transforming their terror into the jubilant worship expressed in Miriam's triumphant song.

The Complaining Cycle

The Israelites' faith, however, was short-lived. Within barely a month of their miraculous deliverance, a familiar pattern emerged. The entire congregation complained against Moses and Aaron, fondly reminiscing about the "fleshpots of Egypt" and wishing they had died with full stomachs rather than facing hunger in the wilderness. This establishes a prominent rhythm throughout the book of Exodus: the people complain, God graciously responds with a tangible solution, and shortly after, the people complain about the solution itself. This cycle is not the behavior of a uniquely malicious mob, but rather a reflection of standard human nature. We frequently petition for change, only to find ourselves complaining about the very changes we requested.

"THE STORIES IN EXODUS ARE ABOUT REAL PEOPLE GOING AT LIFE IN A VERY HUMAN WAY... COMFORTABLE IN OUR MISERY AND RELISHING THE RIGHT TO CARP ABOUT IT!"



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EXODUS

FREE TO FOLLOW



Sinai Theophany

The journey through the wilderness eventually led to the austere base of Mount Sinai, where the Israelites experienced a terrifying and magnificent encounter with the Divine. The mountain was enveloped in thick smoke, shaking violently as thunder crashed, lightning flashed, and the blast of a trumpet grew increasingly loud. This awesome display of unbridled power left absolutely no doubt that they had found God. However, the overwhelming majesty of the Creator terrified the people. Trembling with fear, they backed away and begged Moses to act as their intermediary, admitting they did not truly want to hear God's voice directly lest they die.

Golden Calf & Grace

Despite their initial enthusiastic promises to obey everything the Lord had said, it took only a few weeks for their fidelity to shatter completely. While Moses was delayed on the mountain, the people regressed to what they knew, convincing Aaron to mold a golden calf—a deity reminiscent of the bull gods worshiped along the Nile. This tragic betrayal almost led to their complete destruction. When God expressed His readiness to abandon the rebellious nation, Moses passionately interceded, offering his own life in exchange for theirs. This pivotal moment revealed not only the depth of Moses' care for his people but also unmasked the true character of God. The thunder and lightning at Sinai were necessary to capture the attention of a people who only understood the authority of a whip, but Moses' intercession proved that this powerful God also possessed a deeply gracious, forgiving, and loving nature.



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EXODUS

FREE TO FOLLOW



Key Takeaway

The overarching narrative of Exodus reveals a God who passionately loves His children, desires their presence, and remains faithful even when they falter. The story challenges every reader to accept the freedom God offers, recognizing that liberation is an active journey rather than a static destination. We are called to respond to His leading and to trust firmly that the path He guides us down will ultimately lead to the Promised Land, even when the terrain is rocky, bumpy, and frightening.

REFLECTION: CONSIDER THE "EGYPT" FROM WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN FREED. ARE THERE MOMENTS YOU CATCH YOURSELF LONGING FOR PAST COMFORTS, FORGETTING THE PAIN THEY CAUSED? WILL YOU TRUST GOD'S LEADING THROUGH YOUR OWN WILDERNESS JOURNEY TODAY?



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EXODUS

July 26 Exodus 1

July 27 Exodus 2

July 28 Exodus 3

July 29 Exodus 4

July 30 Exodus 5

July 31 Exodus 6

August 1 Exodus 7

August 2 Exodus 8

August 3 Exodus 9

August 4 Exodus 10

August 5 Exodus 11

August 6 Exodus 12

August 7 Exodus 13

August 8 Exodus 14

August 9 Exodus 15

August 10 Exodus 16

August 11 Exodus 17

August 12 Exodus 18

August 13 Exodus 19

August 14 Exodus 20

August 15 Exodus 21

August 16 Exodus 22

August 17 Exodus 23

August 18 Exodus 24

August 19 Exodus 25

August 20 Exodus 26

August 21 Exodus 27

August 22 Exodus 28

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August 24 Exodus 30

August 25 Exodus 31

August 26 Exodus 32

August 27 Exodus 33

August 28 Exodus 34

August 29 Exodus 35

August 30 Exodus 36

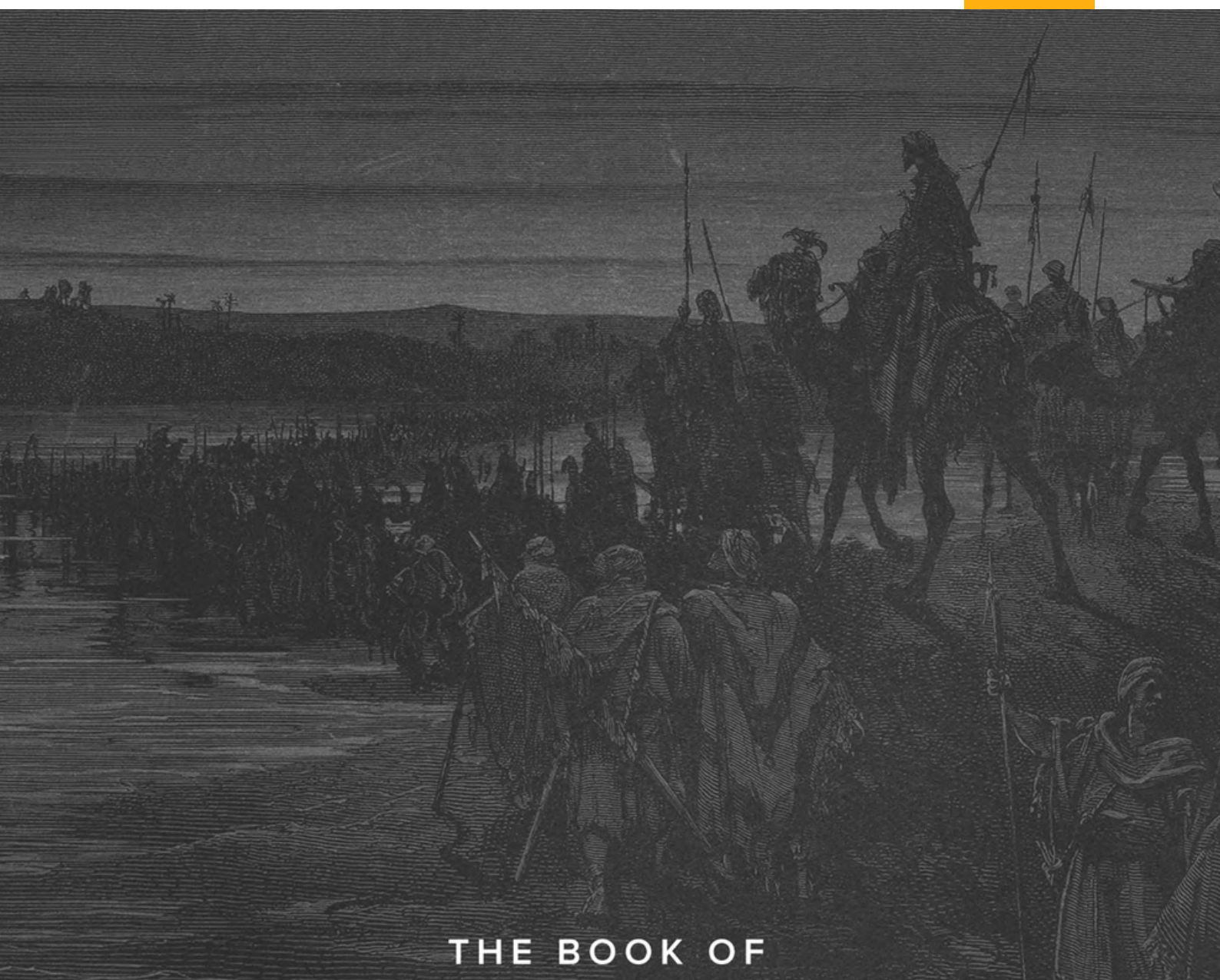
August 31 Exodus 37

September 1 Exodus 38

September 2 Exodus 39

September 3 Exodus 40





THE BOOK OF

LEVITICUS



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LEVITICUS



HE LIVED WITH US

Following their exodus from Egyptian slavery, the Israelites embarked on a harsh, demanding journey through the wilderness. Enduring oppressive heat, barren landscapes, and pervasive thirst, the people understandably struggled with impatience. The journey illustrates a common human experience: God's timeline frequently conflicts with a human desire for instantaneous results. However, this period of testing was foundational for their spiritual development, requiring them to walk patiently and trust in divine leading.

Upon arriving at Mount Sinai, the Israelites experienced a terrifying manifestation of God's power. Accompanied by thunder, lightning, smoke, and violent seismic activity, the display of divine holiness deeply frightened the camp. Fearing for their lives, the people pleaded with Moses to act as an intermediary, preferring distance from God's overwhelming presence over direct engagement.

The Tabernacle: Dwelling in the Center

Despite the people's instinct to withdraw, God's explicit desire was to maintain close proximity to them. This intention was materialized through the construction of the tabernacle. Moses descended Mount Sinai not only with the Ten Commandments but also with detailed architectural instructions for a portable worship center made of fine fabrics, animal skins, and precious metals.

Crucially, God directed that this tabernacle be positioned directly in the center of the Israelite encampment. It was not to be placed on the periphery or secluded on a distant mountain; it was meant to reside at the very core of their community. This geographic centrality symbolized God's desire to be at the center of His people's lives, serving as a constant testament to His grace, purity, and life-giving nature.



LEVITICUS

HE LIVED WITH US



Understanding the Sacrificial System

The book of Leviticus transitions from the architectural instructions of Exodus to procedural guidelines for the priests ministering within the tabernacle. Modern readers often find the first seventeen chapters—which heavily detail animal sacrifices—difficult to navigate. However, these seemingly mysterious ceremonies contain profound insights into the divine plan of salvation.

To grasp the true meaning of these texts, one must shift from a modern, industrial mindset to that of an ancient agrarian society. In a shepherd culture, taking an animal's life for food was commonplace. Leviticus provided a framework to elevate this act from mere slaughter to a deeply respectful ceremony. The law mandated that when an animal was killed, it should be brought to the tabernacle as an offering. This practice ensured that the taking of a life was not trivialized; it served as a somber reminder of the consequences of sin, while simultaneously acknowledging God as the ultimate provider of life. By partaking in the meat—the fat portions of which were reserved for the altar—the individual received both physical sustenance and spiritual peace through confessed sin and divine forgiveness.

Foreshadowing Grace and Salvation

The intricate rules of sacrifice outlined in Leviticus were not arbitrary; they pointed directly toward the ultimate redemption plan. The innocent animal forfeiting its life in place of the offerer prefigured the future sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Furthermore, specific health-conscious dietary restrictions—such as the prohibition against consuming fat and blood—demonstrated God's holistic care for His people's physical well-being alongside their spiritual purity.



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LEVITICUS

HE LIVED WITH US



Through this system, God revealed Himself not as a harsh dictator demanding appeasement, but as a God of profound grace. The structured approach to forgiveness allowed the Israelites to approach a holy God without the paralyzing fear they initially experienced at Mount Sinai.

The Day of Atonement: Forgiveness and Restoration

The theological pinnacle of Leviticus is found in Chapter 16, which outlines the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur). As the most important day in the Hebrew calendar, it served as a national reset. Through a highly specific series of sacrifices and priestly intercessions, the sins of the entire nation were symbolically cleansed.

The high priest's act of sprinkling blood upon the ark of the covenant in the Most Holy Place was a vivid foreshadowing of Calvary, where Christ would bear the weight of humanity's sin. Deliberately placed in the middle of their annual calendar—coinciding with the expectation of life-giving seasonal rains—the Day of Atonement linked God's grace and the promise of new life directly to the rhythm of the Israelites' year.

Conclusion

Ultimately, the core message of "Leviticus: He Lived With Us" centers on divine proximity and reconciliation. The meticulous laws, the sacrificial system, and the physical presence of the tabernacle all served a singular purpose: to allow a perfectly holy God to dwell intimately with an imperfect people. By bridging the gap between divine purity and human failing through a system of grace, Leviticus illustrates God's enduring invitation for humanity to approach Him, receive cleansing, and live closely with Him without fear.



LEVITICUS

September 4 Leviticus 1

September 5 Leviticus 2

September 6 Leviticus 3

September 7 Leviticus 4

September 8 Leviticus 5

September 9 Leviticus 6

September 10 Leviticus 7

September 11 Leviticus 8

September 12 Leviticus 9

September 13 Leviticus 10

September 14 Leviticus 11

September 15 Leviticus 12

September 16 Leviticus 13

September 17 Leviticus 14

September 18 Leviticus 15

September 19 Leviticus 16

September 20 Leviticus 17

September 21 Leviticus 18

September 22 Leviticus 19

September 23 Leviticus 20

September 24 Leviticus 21

September 25 Leviticus 22

September 26 Leviticus 23

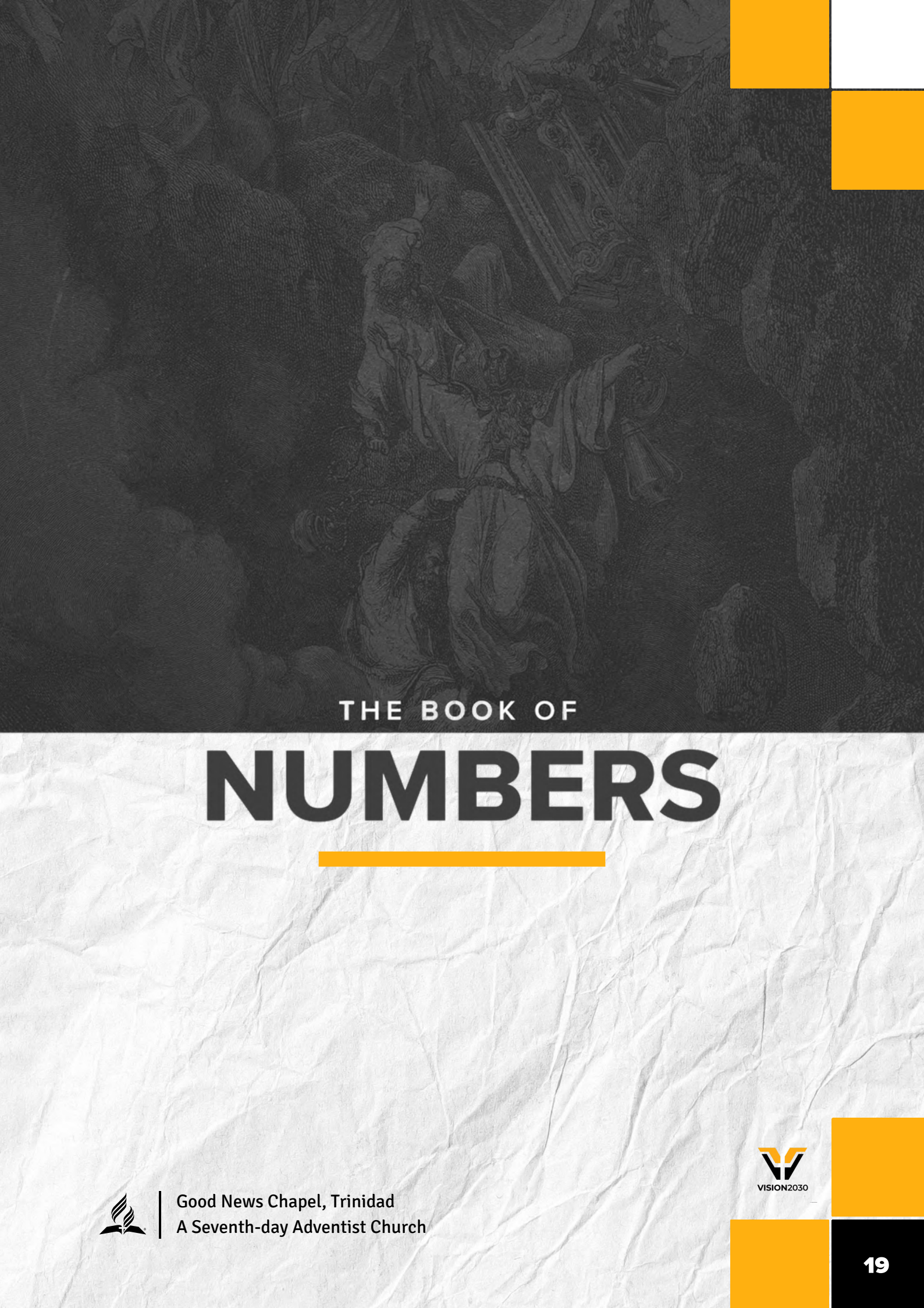
September 27 Leviticus 24

September 28 Leviticus 25

September 29 Leviticus 26

September 30 Leviticus 27





THE BOOK OF

NUMBERS



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NUMBERS



MARCHING TO ZION

Following their exodus from Egyptian slavery, the Israelites embarked on a harsh, demanding journey through the wilderness. Enduring oppressive heat, barren landscapes, and pervasive thirst, the people understandably struggled with impatience. The journey illustrates a common human experience: God's timeline frequently conflicts with a human desire for instantaneous results. However, this period of testing was foundational for their spiritual development, requiring them to walk patiently and trust in divine leading.

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NUMBERS

MARCHING TO ZION



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NUMBERS

October 1 Numbers 1

October 14 Numbers 14

October 27 Numbers 27

October 2 Numbers 2

October 15 Numbers 15

October 28 Numbers 28

October 3 Numbers 3

October 16 Numbers 16

October 29 Numbers 29

October 4 Numbers 4

October 17 Numbers 17

October 30 Numbers 30

October 5 Numbers 5

October 18 Numbers 18

October 31 Numbers 31

October 6 Numbers 6

October 19 Numbers 19

November 1 Numbers 32

October 7 Numbers 7

October 20 Numbers 20

November 2 Numbers 33

October 8 Numbers 8

October 21 Numbers 21

November 3 Numbers 34

October 9 Numbers 9

October 22 Numbers 22

November 4 Numbers 35

October 10 Numbers 10

October 23 Numbers 23

November 5 Numbers 36

October 11 Numbers 11

October 24 Numbers 24

October 12 Numbers 12

October 25 Numbers 25

October 13 Numbers 13

October 26 Numbers 26





THE BOOK OF

DEUTERONOMY



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DEUTERONOMY



THE MIRROR OF GRACE

At first glance, the Book of Deuteronomy can feel like a daunting archive of ancient mandates—laws that often clash with our modern sensibilities of justice. Many readers walk away from its pages struggling to reconcile its stern pronouncements with the image of a loving Savior. However, when viewed in its entirety, Deuteronomy reveals itself as a profound testament to a God of grace. To understand how a book of laws can be a book of love, we must first look at a story of a creature most of the world found unlovable: “Ugly the Cat.”

Ugly was a stray who bore the physical scars of a brutal life. He had only one eye, a missing ear, and a foot that had healed at an unnatural angle, leaving him with a permanent, awkward gait. His tail was a mere twitching stub, and his body was often covered in the yellowing scabs of untreated sores. To the neighborhood, he was a repulsive sight—a creature to be chased away with water hoses or targeted with rocks.

Yet, Ugly possessed a spirit that defied his circumstances. Despite every rejection, he craved affection with an inexhaustible hope. He would purr his heart out to anyone who came near, bumping his scarred head against the hands of children, hoping for a pat behind his ears. He lived in a state of perpetual forgiveness, always returning to give the very people who spurned him a second chance to love him.

Many of us carry our own versions of Ugly’s scars. We feel unwanted, undesirable, or defined by a list of shortcomings. We look in the mirror and see only our faults, feeling unworthy of love from others—and certainly from God. It is precisely in this state of discouragement that Deuteronomy offers its greatest comfort. It is a book born of the “Two Fs”: human Failure and divine Forgiveness.



DEUTERONOMY

THE MIRROR OF GRACE



Rescuing the Fallen

The title Deuteronomy means “Second Law.” It was delivered by Moses to a generation of Israelites who had spent forty years wandering in the wilderness—not because of God’s cruelty, but because of their own failure to trust Him. The law was not given to them as a burden, but as a “second chance” to prepare for the Promised Land.

Moses used the law as a mirror. Just as a mirror reveals a wound that needs healing, the law was intended to help the people see how far they had wandered from perfection. It showed them the “scabs of sin” on their souls, not to condemn them, but to make them conscious of their need for mercy. Throughout the book, Moses reminds the people that despite their rebellion, God never abandoned them. He shielded them like an eagle protects its young and provided for their every need, even when they grumbled against Him.

“WHEN YOU RETURN TO THE LORD YOUR GOD AND OBEY HIM WITH ALL YOUR HEART... THEN THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL RESTORE YOUR FORTUNES AND HAVE COMPASSION ON YOU.”

It is a declaration that God knows everything about us—our weaknesses, our selfishness, and our failures—and loves us anyway. He is not looking for perfection; He is looking for a heart that turns back toward Him.



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DEUTERONOMY

THE MIRROR OF GRACE



The story of Ugly the Cat ended in a moment of poignant beauty. After being fatally injured by neighborhood dogs, Ugly was rescued by a woman named Jennie. Unconcerned by his bloodied and broken appearance, she scooped him up and held him close. In his final moments, Ugly didn't focus on his wounds; he looked into her eyes and spent his last breaths purring a song of adoration.

Life may have beaten you down, leaving you feeling “ugly” and unlovable. But God is in the business of rescuing the fallen. He is not repulsed by your scars or your past. He is bending over you right now, wanting to scoop you up in His arms and give you another chance. He knows your story, and He is waiting for you to look up into His eyes and realize how much you are truly loved.



DEUTERONOMY

November 6 Deuteronomy 1

November 7 Deuteronomy 2

November 8 Deuteronomy 3

November 9 Deuteronomy 4

November 10 Deuteronomy 5

November 11 Deuteronomy 6

November 12 Deuteronomy 7

November 13 Deuteronomy 8

November 14 Deuteronomy 9

November 15 Deuteronomy 10

November 16 Deuteronomy 11

November 17 Deuteronomy 12

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November 19 Deuteronomy 14

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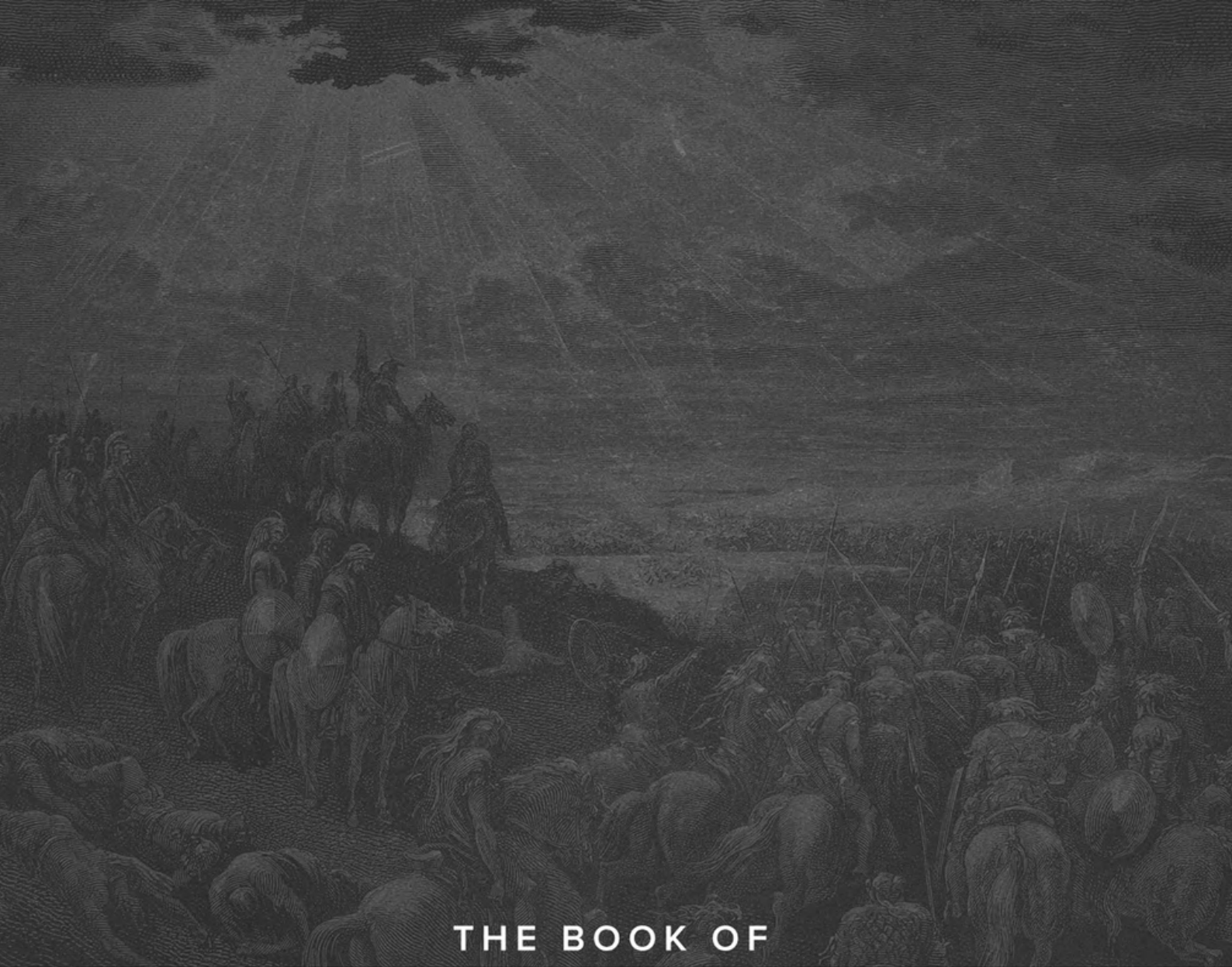
December 6 Deuteronomy 31

December 7 Deuteronomy 32

December 8 Deuteronomy 33

December 9 Deuteronomy 34





THE BOOK OF

JOSHUA



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JOSHUA



CONQUERING FOR GOD

The Privilege of God's Presence

To come face-to-face with God is never a casual thing. Scripture presents such encounters as overwhelming, holy, and deeply humbling. Isaiah cried out in terror at his own uncleanness, while Moses hid his face before the God who spoke from the burning bush. These examples remind us that entering God's presence is not something human beings can claim as a right. Even though believers are invited to approach God with confidence, that access is still a privilege made possible only through divine mercy and the costly sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

This truth sets the stage for one of the most striking encounters in the Old Testament: Joshua meeting God near Jericho. By this point in his life, Joshua was no inexperienced leader. He had spent decades beside Moses, endured hardship in the wilderness, and helped guide God's people through trials and warfare. Yet even after a lifetime of service, he still had to learn that victory does not come through human strength alone. It comes through reverence before God and dependence on Him.

A Leader Formed by Faith

Joshua's history had already taught him the importance of trusting God. Early in Israel's journey, he led the battle against Amalek while Moses stood above him with the staff of God in his hand. Israel's success in that moment depended not merely on military effort, but on God's power working through faithful dependence. Joshua learned that the outcome of battle rested in the Lord's hands, not in human ability. This lesson would shape everything that followed.



JOSHUA

CONQUERING FOR GOD

Years later, Joshua again demonstrated faith when he and Caleb returned from spying out Canaan. While the majority saw danger, defeat, and destruction, Joshua believed God's promise. He refused to measure the future only by visible obstacles. Instead, he urged the people to trust the Lord, who could give them the land. His confidence was not naïve optimism; it was rooted in the character of God. Still, faith spoken in easier moments must eventually be tested in harder ones. Forty years later, as Joshua stood before the towering walls of Jericho, that earlier confidence was no longer theoretical. He now had to act on what he had long believed.

The Encounter at Jericho

Jericho was not a symbolic challenge but a real military obstacle. It was fortified, armed, and intimidating. Joshua had seen battles before, but this situation was different. Here he faced a city whose defenses seemed designed to stop any advance. Yet at precisely that moment of pressure and uncertainty, God appeared. Joshua saw a man standing before him with a drawn sword, and when he asked whether the stranger was ally or enemy, he received an unexpected answer: this was the commander of the army of the Lord. Joshua immediately fell on his face in worship. Like Moses before him, he was told to remove his sandals because the ground was holy.

This scene reveals something essential about God's relationship with His people. God did not merely send instructions from a distance; He came personally to meet His servant. He came to strengthen Joshua, to remind him whose battle this truly was, and to prepare him for what lay ahead. The holiness of the encounter also underscores that Joshua's first task was not conquest but surrender. Before he could lead others, he had to bow himself. Before he could receive a strategy, he had to recognize the Presence standing before him.



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God the Warrior and God the Savior

One of the chapter's most challenging ideas is its portrait of God as warrior. Many people are more comfortable thinking of God only in gentle or comforting terms. Yet the story of Joshua insists that divine love also confronts evil. God appeared with a sword because Joshua was being called into a conflict in which righteousness, justice, and covenant faithfulness were at stake. This is not a denial of God's love; it is an expression of love's refusal to let evil reign forever. Even the New Testament preserves this theme in its images of Christ opposing evil and establishing what is right.

At the same time, Jericho makes clear that God's battles are won by His power, not by human brilliance. The strategy He gave Joshua was astonishingly simple: march around the city and let God bring down the walls. The victory belonged to God from beginning to end. Jericho therefore became a lasting lesson for Israel: triumph comes through God's faithfulness and through obedient trust in Him. When Israel later failed at Ai, the problem was not any weakness in God, but unfaithfulness among the people. The contrast is clear—where there is trusting obedience, God gives victory; where there is rebellion, defeat follows.

The chapter closes by drawing a powerful contrast between Joshua's encounter and the coming of Jesus. The next time God Himself walked that same region near the Jordan, He did not come with a drawn sword but as the Lamb of God. In Joshua, God appeared as warrior; in Christ, He came as reconciler. He came not to destroy, but to save; not to kill, but to die. Yet both revelations point to the same deeper reality: God is fighting for human hearts. Whether confronting evil in conquest or bearing sin on the cross, He acts to redeem, restore, and bring people back to Himself.



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Conclusion

The enduring lesson of this chapter is not simply that Joshua was brave, but that he responded rightly to God's presence. He bowed in humility, listened in faith, and moved forward in obedience. That remains the proper response for believers today. The greatest battle is not merely against external enemies, but for the heart itself. God still comes to His people, still calls them to trust Him, and still asks for reverence, surrender, and faith. If we were to stand face-to-face with God, the hope is that our response would be like Joshua's: humble before His holiness, confident in His power, and willing to follow wherever He leads.



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December 12 Joshua 3

December 13 Joshua 4

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December 15 Joshua 6

December 16 Joshua 7

December 17 Joshua 8

December 18 Joshua 9

December 19 Joshua 10

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