

2019

BIBLE DISCOVERY GUIDE

# JANUARY

GENESIS – LEVITICUS

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# In The Beginning...

Welcome to Bible Discovery! We're so glad you've decided to jump on board and dig deep into the Bible. We encourage you to watch the show and pick up this *Bible Discovery Guide* daily as a way to encourage and educate you in the Word of God. We have another fantastic season ahead of us. So let's get started!

The English word Bible comes from the Greek word *Byblios* and the Latin word *Biblia*, which both mean BOOK. The LORD calls this Book *His Word*. We see in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, that Scripture is considered "God-breathed." In Hebrews 1:1-4, we hear that the Scripture reveals Jesus Christ is God and that He sustains "all things by His powerful word." And, in Matthew 5:18, Jesus Christ reveals the mighty power that Scripture has in our world today.

Jesus Christ said, "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him" (John 14:7). But how do we know the Father? Jesus explains, "Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves" (John 14:11). Jesus Christ told us that if we see Him, then we see the Father.

The Bible is also often called the *Spirit of Truth*, like the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, "The Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; But you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you" (John 14:17). We will know the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Spirit of God through the power and authority of God's WORD!

This is a great time for us to be alive! We are witnesses to the miraculous things God is doing in His world today.

I'm excited to begin this new year reading through every Word of God from Genesis 1 to Revelation 22; sixty-six books, written by forty authors, inspired by the Holy Spirit of God. My family and I look forward to present you with what we discover in the Bible as we journey through God's WORD from beginning to end. It will change our lives!



Rod Hembree, Th.D, DE.



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

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# How to use this Guide

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

In 2019, we're focusing on the theme of Discovery. The following three tips will help you make the most of your daily Bible reading and Guide:



## SPOTLIGHT ON...

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



## DAILY READING

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



## WATCH THE DAILY SHOW

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

# Triune God, Triune Creation

by Ryan Hembree



**M**ore than thirty times in Genesis 1 the Hebrew name of God is used in its plural form, Elohim. Although this in itself does not necessarily prove the plurality of the Godhead, the Bible does go on to teach and develop this idea further, even revealing that God is triune—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (E.G. **MATT. 28:19, 1 JN. 5:7, ETC.**). At the same time, the Bible explicitly teaches that, “the LORD our God, the LORD is one” (**DEUT. 6:4**). But how can God be both three and one? Perhaps

directions. Just as God has three forms but is still one God, space also has three dimensions yet is one in nature.

Another example is time. Time is one dimension but consists of a past, present, and future. Also consider the atom. All atoms (except for hydrogen) are made up of three subatomic particles—protons, neutrons, and electrons. And protons and neutrons appear to be made up of three even smaller particles called quarks!

## PERHAPS THE GREATEST ILLUSTRATION OF GOD'S TRIUNE NATURE IS FOUND WITHIN OUR OWN SELVES.

God’s own creation can provide a helpful illustration of this concept.

Consider space for example. Space is comprised of three dimensions: length, width, and height. In space you can move forward and backward, left and right, and up and down. Any other movements are combinations of these three

Matter also exists in three forms: solid, liquid, and gas. There are three primary colours: red, blue, and green and the universe itself consists of time, space, and matter. Perhaps the greatest

illustration of God’s triune nature is found within our own selves. Indeed, man was created in the image of God and like Him our person also exists in three forms—body, soul, and spirit (**1 THESS. 5:23**).

Thus Creation stands not only as a testimony to its Creator but also as a beautiful illustration of His Triune nature.

# Abraham, Isaac & Jacob

by Corie Bobecko



This famous family from Ur was called by God for a higher purpose, and now their professions are solidly evidenced in extra-biblical records. The Bible's impressive claims of Abraham's wealth and power classifies him and his sons as travelling merchants, these could sometimes even reach king or chieftain status in pagan records.

Several times in the Bible trading is mentioned in relation to the patriarchs ([GEN. 23:16](#); [34:10, 21](#); [42:34](#)) and their lives are distinguished by living in tents, travelling, and the ownership of donkeys, cattle and sheep.

Ancient merchants were also known to amass many kinds of goods including livestock, and though they maintained their nomadic ways, they also invested in farm land.

The Bible records that Abraham's son Isaac did just this. When describing his great wealth in [GENESIS 26:12-14](#), the Bible claims that Isaac bought land in the territory of the Philistines and cultivated it. The resulting harvests made him so wealthy that he was viewed as a threat.

The fact that Abraham was able to rescue Lot in [GENESIS 14](#) is also noteworthy. Abraham had over 300 servants that were trained for warfare, a testament to his preparedness as a nomad travelling with all of his wealth and family. A tribe of this size, with family members, various servants and livestock did not go unnoticed by leaders of cities and

**ABRAHAM HAD OVER 300 SERVANTS THAT WERE TRAINED FOR WARFARE, A TESTAMENT TO HIS PREPAREDNESS.**

territories. The patriarchs held audience with kings and seem to easily move in the most influential circles.

The phrase "Ur of the Chaldeans" has been widely criticized as an historical inaccuracy contained within [GENESIS 11:31](#). However, "of the Chaldeans" was likely a distinction added into Genesis by a later scribe, whose aim was to avoid reader confusion with another city in the North that had also been named Ur.



BIBLE DISCOVERY GUIDE

# JANUARY

GENESIS – LEVITICUS



# The Beginning

## GENESIS 1-2

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

The beginning of time and space is now a unique idea. We learn from the Bible that there was a beginning and there is an end. Many have tried to deny the beginning and make no use for an end, but the Bible clearly proclaims that this existence had a beginning and will stop in the future. The Bible plainly says that in the end God will reconcile everything to Himself. We also learn that what we do now in life will affect how we will spend our future. If we recognize Jesus Christ as God, repent of our sin and accept Him as LORD of our life, then He will do a miracle in our lives and give us the gift of eternal life. The reason for all of this is because we fell into the temptation of sin ([GEN. 3](#)). Genesis 1 and 2 explain that beginning of time, space and everything between it happened as God worked through His Spirit; God created it all. Genesis 1-3 tells us about the things that God created in stark contrast to sin (death), and how we fell in spite of what God warned us about: the consequences of sin.

### DISCOVERING GOD – GENESIS 1:1-8

– 1 –

**The Spirit of God is always present!** He is a part of Who God is.

(v. 1 - 2)

– 2 –

**Light and Darkness are defined.** God created light and darkness to define good and bad.

(v. 3 - 5)

– 3 –

**God divided the liveable land from open space.** The LORD made a place for us to live.

(v. 6 - 8)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

We need to remember that the LORD defined good and bad at the beginning of time. That has never changed. Good and evil are always our choices.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I MUST SEEK YOU DAILY.  
HELP ME TO REMEMBER TO PRAY  
TO YOU EVERY DAY.**



# Sin

## GENESIS 3 – 5

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

The darkness of human nature is rarely spoken of. Most people love the concept of good and hope in the future. But what if that is vastly different than reality? What if the future had no hope and we are all headed for a great disaster? That message would not be popular. And that is the way it was.

But with the advent of Jesus Christ it all changed. Genesis 3 is obvious and straightforward about sin. Sin is that which emanates from satan and infects our lives, causing death and destruction. Sin is not tolerated by HOLINESS, which is what God is. Jesus Christ came to the earth fully man and fully God. He died on a cross and miraculously rose from the dead to pay the full cost of sin and give us a remarkable future. Hope only comes through Jesus Christ! The future only happens with God in it. We discover that the plans for the future come from the mistakes of the past. With Jesus Christ as the center of our life, we become better and HOLY.

### DISCOVERING GOD – GENESIS 3:1-14

– 1 –

**Sin always begins with us believing a lie about God!** When we do, we end up falling to it.

(v. 1 - 3)

– 2 –

**Sin has created a kind of darkness in human nature that is not good.** We are not people who have a *right* to hope for the future, only Jesus Christ does!

(v. 4 - 7)

– 3 –

**God had no choice but to move in man's failure and judge sin.** The LORD has made a way for us to be forgiven of our sin and submit to His future for us.

(v. 8 - 14)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

To understand how the LORD has moved we need to learn about the beginning of sin. We disobeyed God and chose our own way. We rejected the hope and help God gave to us. But because of Jesus Christ we must make a choice to follow HIM or not.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I SEE MY FAILURES.**  
**HELP ME TO SEE THE GREATNESS**  
**YOU HAVE PLANNED FOR ME.**

# A World-wide Flood

## GENESIS 6-9

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

Many in the scientific world do not believe in a global flood. They tend to believe something else, something not so hard or penetrating. Why? Their claim is: there is no evidence for a global flood. But today, two-thirds of the oceans cover the earth with water, and we see evidence of things typically found on the bottom of the oceans fossilized on top of very high mountains.

I have been told by several scientists that this is evidence there has been much topography change in the past. Stories of a global flood have also been recorded in the histories of at least one hundred, thirty-five cultures around the world. There seems to be a great lack of evidence against a global flood, while there is a great volume of evidence pointing towards a global flood that took the earth and reshaped it in its distant past.

### DISCOVERING GOD – GENESIS 6:1-13

– 1 –

**Fallen angels took the daughters of men as wives.** Because of sin, there seems to be a limit of one hundred and twenty years on the lives of both men and women. (v. 1 - 4)

– 2 –

**It seems only Noah and his family had purity in their flesh.** We learn that man can fall away from God in strange and detestable ways. The spirit world is real. (v. 5 - 8)

– 3 –

**The earth had made its way evil and detestable.** We must remember that it is possible for our free will to engage with spiritual evil and make us corrupt! (v. 9 - 13)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

At one point the earth was corrupt in the sight of the LORD, causing God to bring about a global flood. We should remember that the world can still become corrupt enough to strike against the LORD and His Kingdom with sin.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO STAY PURE BEFORE YOU! I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT YOUR WAY IS ALWAYS RIGHT! TODAY, I GIVE MY LIFE AND MY WAYS TO YOU.**

# Creation of Languages

## GENESIS 10–13

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

It is difficult to learn a new language. *Why are there so many languages on the earth?* The answer to that question is found in the book of Genesis, chapter 11.

The Bible speaks to every major change on the earth and why it happened. The Tower of Babel is known as such because of the development of other languages introduced by the LORD God. It was a result of the people disobeying God's commands given to Noah back in Genesis 9. God commanded Noah: "And as for you, be fruitful and multiply; Bring forth abundantly in the earth, and multiply in it" (Gen. 9:7). The people wanted to make a name for themselves, rather than obey God. The LORD clearly saw their efforts and although His patience was misunderstood, He came down and confused their languages and scattered them over all the earth.

### DISCOVERING GOD — GENESIS 11:1-9

– 1 –

**The earth had one language.** The people were more interested in building a name for themselves, rather than seeking God.

(v. 1 - 4)

– 2 –

**The city and Tower of Babel was stopped by God.** God sees everything we do and how we do it. We should seek to do things His way and not our way!

(v. 5 - 8)

– 3 –

**God created the languages around the world!** God is Creator and LORD. There are no accidents with God. He always does things right!

(v. 9)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The people of the earth had one language but they chose poorly and did the wrong thing. Once again God stepped in and corrected mankind. Different nations of people are God's will and call on humanity. We should remember that!

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**I MUST REMEMBER THERE ARE MANY NATIONS ON THE EARTH. LORD, YOU HAVE CREATED AND HAVE A PLAN FOR ALL OF THEM.**

# The Land of Israel

## GENESIS 14-17

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

Israel is a nation once again. In fact, it is a superpower in the Middle East. There are many who either hate or love Israel. As Christians we have been commanded by Jesus Christ to hate no one; we must learn to love our enemies. Israel can be traced back to Genesis 15 in a land treaty God gave to Abraham. When we think about the land of Israel, it is imperative for us to listen to the WORD of God. It was clearly given to Israel four thousand years ago! There is no question as we read and see the work of God. He gave a distinct land to the nation of Israel before she was ever born.

Today we can read God's covenant to Abram (Abraham) and learn that God does nothing by accident. The LORD is God of heaven and earth, and He created the spaces and places where we live for a reason. We should learn what that means and trust the LORD to prepare us for His plan.

### DISCOVERING GOD – GENESIS 15:1-16

– 1 –

**Abram learned that God is his shield and reward.**

God has promised He is with us and will help us. We are never alone!

(v. 1 - 4)

– 2 –

**God told Abram to look at the sky and count the stars!** God is not afraid

of anything that we learn or think we know. God sees everything!

(v. 5)

– 3 –

**God formed a covenant with Abram for the land of Israel!** God made all the

things necessary for Israel to live in their own land.

They are still in it!

(v. 6 - 16)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

We can learn much from the Old Testament about how the LORD positioned land and covenants. God does not play around with promises or trust because He is the LORD. We believe and trust in God because what He has said in His Word is TRUE.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, YOUR WORD IS TRUE. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR ME TO READ AND UNDERSTAND. HELP ME TO READ IT DAILY.**

# The Son of Promise

## GENESIS 18 – 20

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

As Abraham was sitting in the doorway of his tent, the LORD appeared to him along with two angels. At first Abraham didn't know who they were or where they were from, but was very happy to see them. They had come to see the sinful works of Sodom and Gomorrah and not to attend to Abraham, but the LORD made Himself available to him and they shared a meal prepared for them by Abraham.

It is interesting that God made Himself known to Abraham when He revealed that Abraham's wife, Sarah, would soon have a son. Sarah had been barren and was now well past child-bearing age. It is not known how public Abraham's desire for an heir was but it is clear that Abraham now knew God was involved. The exchange between the LORD and Abraham is a stunning revelation of how the LORD moves in our midst. As we read through Genesis 18, we learn that God desires our involvement in many of His decisions on earth.

### DISCOVERING GOD – GENESIS 18:1-14

– 1 –

**Abraham saw three men but it was the LORD!**

Although God doesn't need food, the men ate what was offered. The LORD often involves Himself in our lives.

(v. 1 - 5)

– 2 –

**They ate what Abraham had prepared for them.**

Remember that God involves us in His work if we are committed to His ways.

(v. 6 - 8)

– 3 –

**God informs Abraham and Sarah they will have a child!** We should never measure the LORD according to our own standards!

(v. 9 - 14)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

What we can learn in Genesis will change our image of God forever. We discover that we can never measure God according to our standards in this universe. Our LORD is bigger than anything we can understand. We must seek His image, and work to change our life by doing His will!

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, YOUR STANDARDS ARE SO DIFFERENT THAN MY ABILITY TO THINK. I MUST SEEK YOUR WAYS AND FOLLOW YOU.**

# Abraham's Two Sons

## GENESIS 21-22

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

God did what He said and gave Sarah a miracle! Well past the age of childbearing, Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham.

They named him Isaac, which means to laugh. Sarah declared, "God has made me laugh, and all who hear will laugh with me" (GEN. 21:6). This was a unique time in the life of Abraham and Sarah. Since both were very old, God clearly moved His hand to cause the birth of their son Isaac.

Earlier, the LORD had spoken to Abraham about his future household: "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir" (GEN. 15:4). Every word the LORD spoke to Abraham came true, as He said it would. God always fulfills His word! This is important for us to understand as we read the Bible - the WORD OF GOD!

### DISCOVERING GOD – GENESIS 21:1-12

- 1 -

**He was named Isaac because God made them laugh!** Both Sarah and Abraham were beyond childbearing years. God still does miracles today!  
(v. 1 - 4)

- 2 -

**God's timing is always right!** God is never finished with us no matter how old we are. We must be ready to make the transition!  
(v. 5 - 7)

- 3 -

**Abraham cannot change God's prophecy!** It was Isaac who was called to carry on the blessing of God!  
(v. 8 - 12)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

There are times when we think we can change God's will and prophecy because of our mistakes. Abraham made a tragic mistake, but God did not change anything He said because of that mistake. We must always recognize that God does not change.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I ASK FOR YOUR FORGIVENESS AND GIVE YOU MY FLAWS. HELP ME TO TRUST AND FOLLOW ONLY YOU!**

# The Sacred Covenant

## GENESIS 23 – 25

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

Throughout the Bible we learn that God works through covenants. His covenants always remain and stand true. Abraham, now very old and not likely able to make the journey himself, assigns his oldest servant the responsibility of finding a wife for his son, Isaac. The servant swore an oath that he would not take a wife for Isaac from the Canaanites, but would return to Abraham's country and family. Abraham made a covenant with his servant and God honored that covenant.

If we are concerned to fulfill the work of the LORD His way, God helps us in the promises we make for Him. We learn much from Abraham, not the least of which is his concern to fulfill what God desired. The covenant of Isaac's wife is an example of how God moves in our lives when we seek Him. The will of God is a strange mix of God's divine purpose and our desire to see God fulfill those purposes.

### DISCOVERING GOD – GENESIS 24:1-14

– 1 –

**Isaac's bride was to come from Abraham's family in the east.** God fulfills our desires when they involve His sacred covenants and the will of our LORD.

(v. 1 - 5)

– 2 –

**Abraham was still sensitive to what God had said to him years ago.** We must pay attention to God's will for our whole life not just a part of it!

(v. 6 - 8)

– 3 –

**God would show the servant that Abraham was favored!** When we are favored by God, He does miraculous things for us!

(v. 9 - 14)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

As people who follow Jesus Christ we must learn that our choices affect other people and things. It is always good for us to move in the direction of God in all our decision making. Freedom can be a deadly trap, and failure is possible if we do not listen to the LORD.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I NEED TO CHANGE THE WAY I THINK. HELP ME MAKE DECISIONS BASED ON WHAT YOU DESIRE RATHER THAN WHAT I WANT!**

# The Deception

GENESIS 26–28

## DISCOVERING THE WORD

Today we study the deception of Isaac by his son Jacob. As we look at the family scenario of a son's blessing, we soon realize that deception can become very complicated. Many times we underplay the work of Rebekah, who is ultimately the one responsible for the plot to deceive her husband Isaac. It was a deception against her husband.

God sees everything we do and knows why we do it. It is interesting that Rebekah never seems to take time to pray about what to do or not do following the conversation she overheard between Isaac and Esau. Jacob also did not pray when he heard his mother's deceptive plan. There are many moving parts to consider as we read about this lying game with Isaac. The remarkable thing to remember is that God the Father sees and knows everything we do, and why. Before we make any move in our lives we should consider the importance of praying about it first. It could save us, and others, a lot of pain!

## DISCOVERING GOD – GENESIS 27:1-17

– 1 –

**Isaac was thinking about his last words and meal.**

As we get older, we must learn what God desires and seek His face for it.

(v. 1 - 4)

– 2 –

**Rebekah loved Jacob and Isaac loved Esau.**

Favoritism between children is never a good practice. This eventually split the kingdom.

(v. 5 - 8)

– 3 –

**Preparing for a lie is a lot of work!**

It is easier, and our troubles are less, when we focus our lives on the TRUTH!

(v. 9 - 17)

## DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Deception is hard to maintain. People of truth tell the truth, even when it hurts. As Christians we choose to follow Jesus Christ, who is Truth. As we follow Jesus we must be committed to focus on the truth and avoid deception.

## TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME AT ALL TIMES TO TELL THE TRUTH AND TO BE KEEN TO LISTEN TO THE TRUTH AND NOT LIES.**



# The Call of God

## GENESIS 29–31

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

When we are called by the God of the Universe, things begin to change in our life. It is true that the LORD speaks to our hearts, but He also changes our life circumstances to fulfill that calling. This is very important for us to learn and to understand.

Jacob’s call to return to Canaan was not just in his heart, or how he was feeling, but God was making things happen in his life consistent with that call. There are times in life when we are called by God to move or do something different. Then there are times when we just want to move or do something different. It is important for us to be able to tell the difference between God’s call and our feelings; many mistakes can be avoided this way! If we pay attention to the WORK of the HOLY SPIRIT the LORD moves in our lives. The call of God is the most important thing we will ever sense as followers of Jesus Christ. God speaks to us and we must listen.

### DISCOVERING GOD – GENESIS 31:1-13

– 1 –

**When Jacob heard the call of God, God began to work in him.** The call of God always begins with a shaking-up and a moving around of our established world. (v. 1 - 3)

– 2 –

**Even though God was calling him away, Jacob was protected by God.** When it is God who calls us away, we need to know that the LORD will protect us from the enemy! (v. 4 - 9)

– 3 –

**God calls us to different places and spaces in our lives.** We should listen to the LORD because God is calling us to reach people for Him. (v. 10 - 13)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

While growing up, I moved 21 times. My father was a minister, so as God directed we moved to different places. One thing I learned is that it is the LORD who calls and directs us to move or to stay, or even to change their work and friends. It is important to respond to God’s calling!

### TODAY’S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO ALWAYS RESPOND TO YOUR CALL ON MY LIFE. MAY I ALWAYS FOLLOW YOU.**

# Deception

GENESIS 32–34

## DISCOVERING THE WORD

It is never a good thing to be deceptive. Lying is wrong and it leads to a lifestyle of deception. Jacob's sons faced a situation with their sister and made a decision to lie in order to get the outcome they wanted.

Shechem was the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country. Princes of those days were used to taking what they wanted and doing what they desired. Shechem desired Dinah, the daughter of Jacob and Leah. When she went out to make friends with the young women of the city, Shechem saw her. He was captivated by her and took her to sleep with. Knowing this was a deep violation of Jacob's way, Shechem seemed to have some sense of conscience and asked that his father Hamor get Jacob's permission to marry Dinah. They came to Jacob and tried to talk with him and his sons.

## DISCOVERING GOD – GENESIS 34:1-17

– 1 –

### **Dinah left the protection of her ancestral home.**

We must be careful where we go. We must not flirt with sin. We should stay out of its path at all cost!

(v. 1 - 4)

– 2 –

### **Hamor came to Jacob and his sons in peace.**

There are times when sin tries to make us move towards working with it. But God tells us to avoid sin and stay away from its work! (v. 5 - 12)

– 3 –

### **The sons of Jacob lied to Hamor and Shechem!**

We must never cooperate with sin or react against sin in a sinful way, both of these actions cause us to lose the ability God has given us to overcome it. (v. 13 - 17)

## DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The sons of Jacob lied to Shechem and his father. When they and their men were circumcised and in pain, the brothers moved into the city and slaughtered them. They did not call on God. We must call on God in every situation involving sin. We do not have what it takes for us to overcome it alone.

## TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I MUST CALL ON YOU**  
**AT ALL TIMES, IN EVERY**  
**SITUATION. HELP ME TO SEE**  
**THAT AND TO DO THAT!**

# The Family of Esau

GENESIS 35 – 37

## DISCOVERING THE WORD

We read in Genesis that Jacob's brother Esau was the father of the Edomites. The challenge of knowing where we come from today is almost impossible to solve without some kind of link to past events. Many in modern science have made leaping assumptions that require vast amounts of faith. There is much evidence to look at and yet, people still determine different views from the same evidence. Evolution, for example, grabs at extensive assumptions based on many things that are not dated. The Bible, though historically sound, is not even considered in the crafting of their assumptions that lead to evolution. Without jumping into the debate through which modern historical science is split, we can make good assumptions on where we come from as societies, groups or individuals by looking at the Bible.

## DISCOVERING GOD – GENESIS 36:1-11

– 1 –

**Jacob's brother Esau was the father of several people groups.** We would do well to assume the Bible is correct. God's WORD is not wrong!

(v. 1 - 5)

– 2 –

**Esau went southeast of Jacob to a place in modern-day Jordan.** Sometimes God directs us to a place where it is better for us to grow, and He supplies our needs. (v. 6 - 8)

– 3 –

**God gives us the genealogy of Esau, so we can track them through history.** God has a plan for us in this world. We should learn what that plan is!

(v. 9 - 11)

## DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

We should pay attention to what people say, and why they say it. We learn about our past and who is in it when we study and read the WORD of God. The Bible is an important look at the past. If we do not believe that then why are we reading it?

## TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, MY DESIRE IS TO READ AND KNOW YOUR WORD. HELP ME TO HAVE A HUNGER AND TO GROW IN YOUR WORD.**

# The Man, Joseph

GENESIS 38 – 40

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Joseph was the son of Jacob, and was favored by his father over all of his brothers. Joseph presumed to be better than his brothers and they became angry and hated him. Families in ancient times were very much tied to the line of birth. You can imagine the tension that families could encounter when the children of one father had different mothers, but still one source of inheritance. There was something God had yet to do in the lives of both Jacob and Joseph. The story is covered in Genesis 37 and 39.

After his brothers sold him to slave traders, Joseph became a victim of slavery in the house of Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard and an important man in Egypt. But Potiphar’s wife had eyes for Joseph and when he would not respond to her physical advances, she framed Joseph and he was put in prison. The LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy; he was put in charge of the prisoners by the keeper of the prison.

DISCOVERING GOD – GENESIS 40:1-13

– 1 –

**Joseph dared to ask the right questions!** Many times we do not get involved because we refuse to ask the right questions. These may be opportunities God has provided for us.

(v. 1 - 7)

– 2 –

**Joseph did not fail to identify God in ancient Egypt!** It is God who makes us wise and strong. We should identify our LORD when we are working in a difficult circumstance.

(v. 8)

– 3 –

**God can work through us no matter where we are!** Joseph was in prison! God still worked through Joseph and showed the prisoners who He really was. He was present with them!

(v. 9 - 13)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

There are times in which we are attacked by spiritual evil. As Christians we should keep in our mind that God is with us. He will work no matter where we are or how bad it is. It is God who comes into our heart and makes us stronger than any situation!

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, YOU ARE STRONGER THAN ANY SITUATION. HELP ME TO BE STRONG AND OVERCOME ANY CIRCUMSTANCE I FIND MYSELF IN.**

# Joseph Speaks to Pharaoh

GENESIS 41–43

## DISCOVERING THE WORD

Joseph was called to stand before the Pharaoh of Egypt. He was cleaned up and brought quickly from the prison so he could be in Pharaoh's presence. The name Pharaoh means *big house* or *supreme house*. Thought to be the actual son of god, Pharaoh was the supreme ruler of ancient Egypt, the absolute monarch, chief commander of all armies and the chief justice of the courts. He was a dictator thought to be high above everyone in status: economic, mental, physical and master of all. He had experienced troubling dreams that pushed him to a desperate act; bringing a man from prison who had a reputation for interpreting dreams. Joseph, a Jewish man, explained that he was not an expert, it was God who would give Pharaoh an answer of peace. Extremes are God's specialty. And this is one of them! Never before in recorded history was a man brought from the lowest prison to a Pharaoh to give help and instruction.

## DISCOVERING GOD – GENESIS 41:1-16

– 1 –

**Pharaoh had a dream but did not know what it meant.** Like Joseph, we too will be given things to say and do that others will not understand because we know God. (v. 1 - 7)

– 2 –

**Joseph was remembered.** Like Joseph, we too will be remembered by those whom we interact with. We must act as God helps us in the time and place in which God puts us. (v. 8 - 13)

– 3 –

**God will show Himself strong and good to those who hear Him!** Joseph told Pharaoh and everyone else in the court, that it was God alone who would reveal the dream. (v. 14 - 16)

## DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The times we live in are strange to Christians. When we follow Christ, we become unlike the world. But like Joseph, we will be in positions to interact with worldly culture on behalf of God. We must be obedient to His Word. Through our obedience God will be seen by those who see our lives.

## TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I WANT TO BE SOMEONE WHO REFLECTS YOU THROUGH MY ACTIONS. HELP ME TO DO THAT TODAY AND FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.**