



Storyteller

From GENESIS *to*
REVELATION

THE GRAND NARRATIVE

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REVELATION

THE GRAND NARRATIVE

Lifeway Press®
Brentwood, Tennessee

Editorial Team

Cynthia Wooldridge
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ISBN: 979-8-3845-4128-8 • Item number: 005854015

Dewey decimal classification: 220.07

Subject heading: BIBLE--STUDY AND TEACHING \ CHRISTIANITY \ BIBLE--READING

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Printed in the United States of America

Adult Ministry Publishing • Lifeway Resources • 200 Powell Place • Brentwood, TN 37027-7707

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THE STORYTELLER SERIES

God could have chosen to reveal Himself in any way that He desired, yet in His wisdom, He chose to reveal Himself in the context of a story. We come to know and understand this reality as we immerse ourselves in the Scriptures and begin to see the entirety of Scripture as one interconnected story. By becoming familiar with the individual stories of Scripture, we train ourselves to see each as one part of God's big story.

Storyteller is a series of devotional and group Bible study experiences designed to take people through Scripture in a way that is beautiful, intuitive, and interactive. Each volume uses a book of the Bible or a portion of Scripture from within a book to examine a key theme. This theme guides the Bible study experience and gives readers handles to help understand and digest what they're reading.

From Genesis to Revelation is the capstone resource in the Storyteller series, serving as a starting place, an ending place, or a clarifying interlude somewhere along the way. At the end of this study, as with the end of each study in the Storyteller series, you should have a deeper understanding of God, His Word, the big themes of Scripture, the connectedness of God's story, and His work in your life.

Let's enter the story together.

GENRES *of the* BIBLE

When it comes to books, what is your favorite genre? Consider the four traditional, major categories: fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama. When you head into a bookstore, whether it's a physical or digital model, you most likely do so with one or two favorite categories in mind. You want to read books by authors who write in a way that fits your preferences.

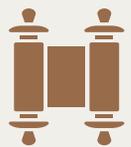
The Bible is different. Its sixty-six books were written over a span of 1,600 years by over forty different authors on three different continents in at least six literary genres, all telling one story—by God's inspiration and design. That unity in diversity is a gift. The genres in particular for our purposes in this study help us see and understand the gift of God's Word to every person with every preference in every time period, culture, and circumstance. God did not tell His story with one singular strategy. Instead, He employed many strategies in order to effectively communicate truth and personally engage all people with holy and eternal intention.

If we are people who love systematicity and neatness,
let us not rewrite the Bible in our own image. And if
we are those who are thrilled by adventure, messiness,
and unpredictability, let us not assume that the Bible
was written for us and no one else. Let us rejoice
when the Bible does not think like we do, because
only then can we be assured that when we read it,
we are looking through a window and not a mirror.¹

– *Christopher Watkin*



THE BOOKS OF THE LAW reveal sin's curse, God's promise of redemption, and rules for faithful living in the context of covenant relationship with Him.



THE BOOKS OF HISTORICAL NARRATIVE describe historical events that tell of God's love for His people, consequences of their disobedience to His commands, and His desire to redeem them even in their continued unfaithfulness.



THE BOOKS OF WISDOM AND POETRY include wise sayings and proverbs to give instruction for living and prayerful songs that explore human experience and emotion in light of every person's great need for God's redemption, wisdom, and hope.



THE BOOKS OF PROPHECY call people to repent from sin and turn to God in covenant faithfulness, promising rescue, redemption, and ultimate eternal restoration in the Messiah.



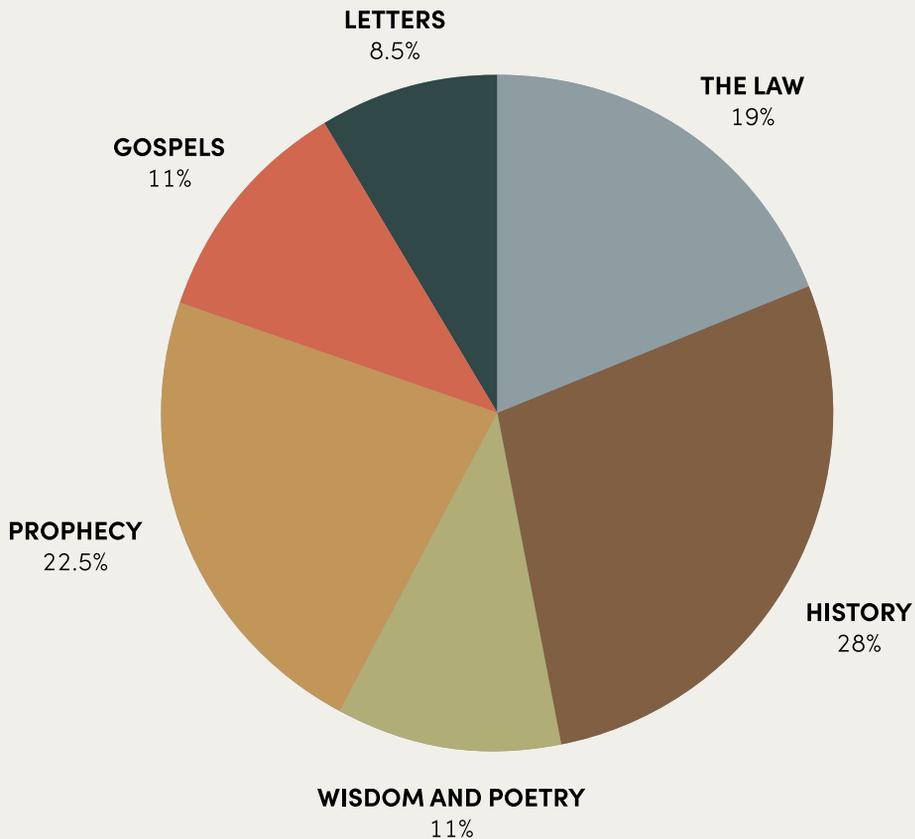
THE GOSPELS, through eyewitness accounts, tell of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, who completely fulfills God's promise of salvation and redemption to all who believe.



THE LETTERS, written to address specific audiences and circumstances, explain the theology of the gospel, guiding believers to grow in faith, live together in step with the Spirit, and actively participate in God's ongoing mission of redemption.

Through diverse genres, God reveals His redemptive purpose in ways that reach both reason and emotion, inviting us to know His heart and join His story.

GENRES IN SCRIPTURE

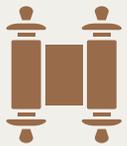




THE LAW

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus

Numbers
Deuteronomy



HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel
2 Samuel

1 Kings
2 Kings
1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles

Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther
Acts (NT)



WISDOM & POETRY

Job
Psalms
Proverbs

Ecclesiastes
Song of Songs



PROPHECY

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel

Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah

Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai

Zechariah
Malachi
Revelation (NT)



GOSPELS

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John



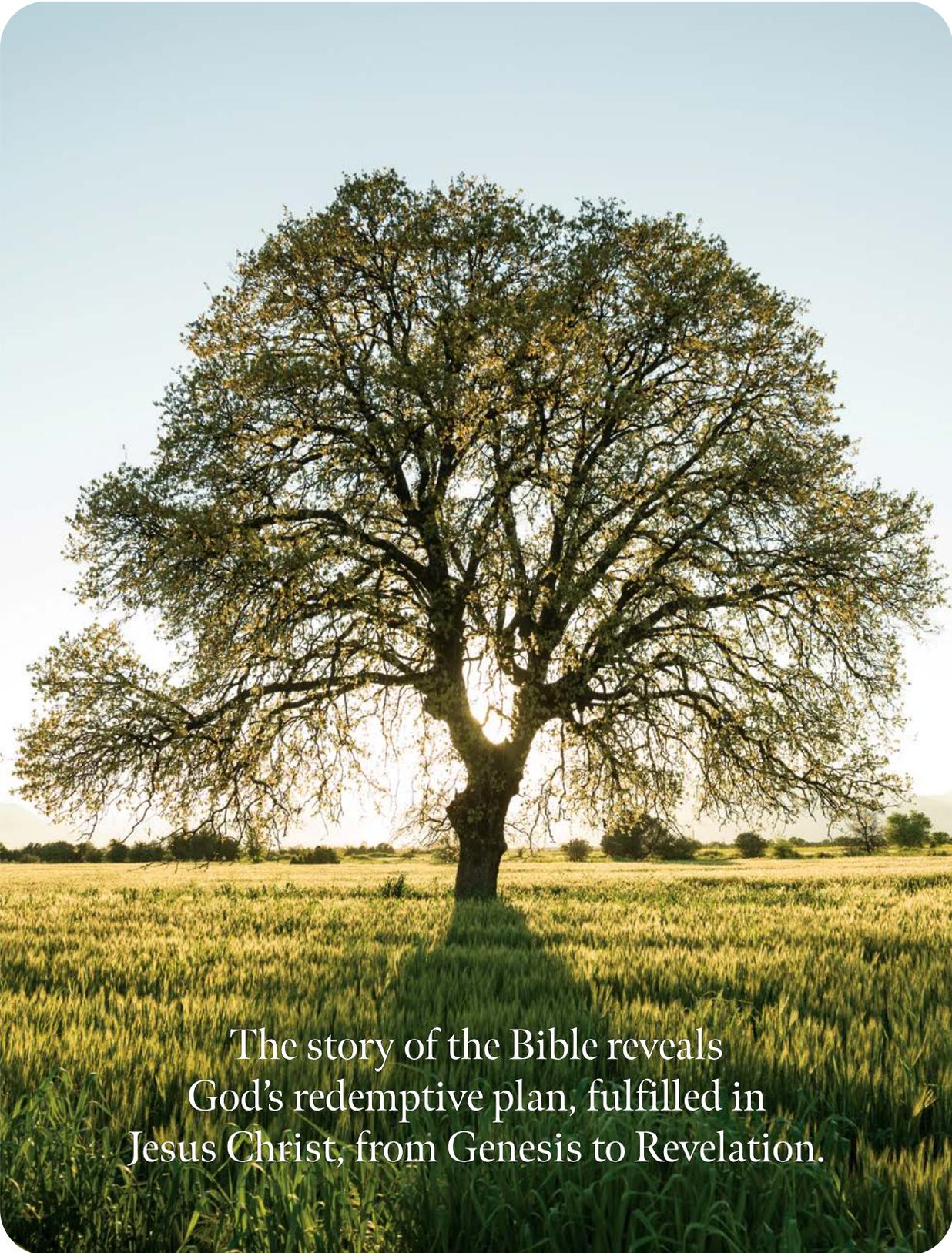
LETTERS

Romans
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians

Colossians
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians
1 Timothy
2 Timothy

Titus
Philemon
Hebrews
James
1 Peter

2 Peter
1 John
2 John
3 John
Jude



The story of the Bible reveals
God's redemptive plan, fulfilled in
Jesus Christ, from Genesis to Revelation.

The Bible is

66

BOOKS WRITTEN OVER

1,600

YEARS BY

40

AUTHORS ON

3

CONTINENTS IN

3

LANGUAGES AND

6

GENRES TELLING

1
Story

Every book of the Bible points to Jesus, through whom God's grand narrative is made clear.

Jesus is our . . .

Creator and promised Redeemer.

GENESIS 1:1;3:15; COLOSSIANS 1:16; HEBREWS 2:14

Passover Lamb and deliverer.

EXODUS 12:13; JOHN 1:29

great High Priest.

LEVITICUS 16:6-10,15-17,20-22; HEBREWS 4:14

bronze serpent, lifted up for healing.

NUMBERS 21:9 JOHN 3:14-15

curse-bearer.

DEUTERONOMY 21:22-23; GALATIANS 3:13

commander, leading God's army.

JOSHUA 5:13-15; REVELATION 19:11-16

perfect Judge over every injustice.

JUDGES 2:16-18; MATTHEW 25:31-46

kinsman-redeemer.

RUTH 4:9-10; EPHESIANS 2:13,19

prophet, priest, and King.

1 SAMUEL 3:21-4:1; 7:6-15; REVELATION 1:5

promised eternal King.

2 SAMUEL 7:16; LUKE 1:32-33

true temple.

1 KINGS 8:10-11,27-30; COLOSSIANS 2:9; REVELATION 21:22

faithful King and restorer.

2 KINGS 17:7-8; REVELATION 19:11,16

eternal Son of David.

1 CHRONICLES 17:11-14; LUKE 1:32-33

King who restores true worship.

2 CHRONICLES 7:11-16; JOHN 4:23-26

source of renewal and restoration.

EZRA 1:1-5; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

restorer of what sin has broken.

NEHEMIAH 1:3-4; REVELATION 21:5

protector and deliverer.

ESTHER 4:14; 2 TIMOTHY 4:18

Redeemer who vindicates us.

JOB 19:25-27; TITUS 2:13-14

shepherd and Savior.

PSALM 22:1,16-18; 23:1; MATTHEW 27:35-46; JOHN 10:11

personification of God's wisdom.

PROVERBS 2:6; 1 CORINTHIANS 1:24

meaning for life.

ECCLESIASTES 12:8,13; JOHN 10:10

bridegroom who loves His bride.

SONG OF SONGS 2:4; REVELATION 19:7

Prince of Peace and Suffering Servant.

ISAIAH 9:6; 53:3-5; LUKE 2:14; 1 PETER 2:24-25

righteous branch, bringing a new covenant.

JEREMIAH 23:5-6; LUKE 1:32-33

hope in sorrow.

LAMENTATIONS 3:21-23; JOHN 16:33

forever King.

EZEKIEL 37:24-28; LUKE 1:32-33

Son of Man.

DANIEL 7:13-14; MATTHEW 26:64

faithful husband.

HOSEA 3:1-2; EPHESIANS 5:25-27

Spirit-sender.

JOEL 2:28-29; ACTS 2:16-18

just and righteous One.

AMOS 5:24; ACTS 3:14

deliverer who establishes His kingdom.

OBADIAH 1:21; COLOSSIANS 1:13-14

greater Jonah bringing salvation to the nations.

JONAH 4:2; MATTHEW 12:41

Messiah who removes sins forever.

MICAH 5:2; 7:18-19; MATTHEW 2:1,6; HEBREWS 8:12

bringer of justice and peace.

NAHUM 1:15; JOHN 14:27

source of life through faith.

HABAKKUK 2:4; ROMANS 1:17

warrior who saves.

ZEPHANIAH 3:17; MATTHEW 1:21

restorer of worship.

HAGGAI 2:7-9; JOHN 2:19-21

Messiah who was pierced for us.

ZECHARIAH 12:10; JOHN 19:37

sun of righteousness.

MALACHI 4:2; LUKE 1:78-79; 1 PETER 2:24

messianic King who rules forever.

MATTHEW 21:1-9; 28:18-20; 2 **SAMUEL** 7:12-13

Servant who gave His life for our redemption.

MARK 10:45; **ISAIAH** 53:10-11

Savior for all people.

LUKE 2:10-11; **ISAIAH** 49:6

Son of God who gives eternal life.

JOHN 3:16; **GENESIS** 22:2,8,13

one with the Spirit who dwells in His people.

ACTS 2:33; **JOEL** 2:28-29

justification, sanctification, and glorification.

ROMANS 5:1; 6:22; 8:30; **GENESIS** 15:6; **PSALM** 51:10-12; **DANIEL** 12:2-3

foundation of the Church.

1 CORINTHIANS 3:11; **PSALM** 118:22

power made perfect in human weakness.

2 CORINTHIANS 12:9; **ISAIAH** 40:29-31

life.

GALATIANS 2:20; **DEUTERONOMY** 30:20

unity.

EPHESIANS 4:3-6; **ZECHARIAH** 14:9

joy and model of humility.

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8; 4:4; **PSALM** 16:11; **ISAIAH** 53:3-4

supreme King over all things and in all things.

COLOSSIANS 1:15-20; **EXODUS** 33:18-23

comfort in the last days.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18; **ISAIAH** 25:8-9

returning King

2 THESSALONIANS 1:6-10; **ISAIAH** 66:15-16

mediator with God.

1 TIMOTHY 2:5; **JOB** 9:33

source of endurance and life.

2 TIMOTHY 2:10-13; **ISAIAH** 40:29-31; **DANIEL** 12:2-3

foundation of truth.

TITUS 1:1-3; **PROVERBS** 30:5

reconciliation to God and people.

PHILEMON; **ISAIAH** 53:5

superior sacrifice and High Priest.

HEBREWS 9:11-14; **LEVITICUS** 16; **PSALM** 110:4

transformer of faith into action.

JAMES 2:14-17; **MICAH** 6:8

hope in times of suffering.

1 PETER 1:3-6; **PSALM** 42:5

guard against false teaching.

2 PETER 3:17-18; **DEUTERONOMY** 13:1-4

love and source of eternal life.

1 JOHN 4:7-10; **ISAIAH** 54:10; **PSALM** 36:9

truth we must walk in.

2 JOHN 1:1-2; **ISAIAH** 45:19; **PSALM** 25:5

example of faithfulness and hospitality.

3 JOHN 1:5-8; **PROVERBS** 3:3-4

protection against stumbling,
presenting us blameless.

JUDE 1:24-25; **PSALM** 121:3-4; **ZECHARIAH** 3:3-4

King of kings and Lord of lords,
Alpha and Omega, beginning and end.

REVELATION 22:13; **ISAIAH** 41:4; 44:6

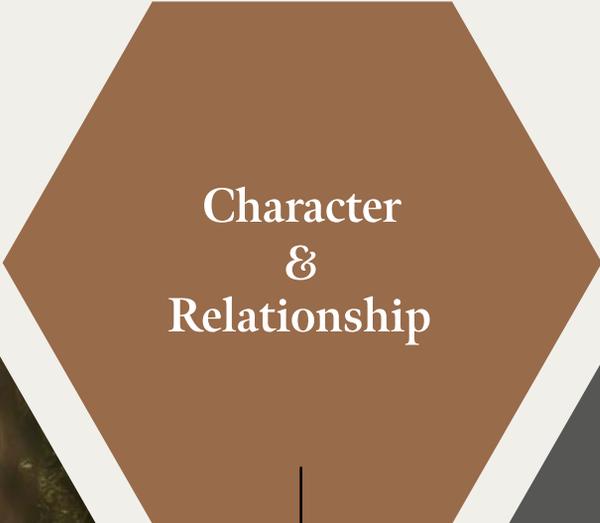
*Then beginning with
Moses and all the Prophets,
he interpreted for them the
things concerning himself
in all the Scriptures.*

LUKE 24:27

5 UNIFYING THEMES

in the Grand Narrative

Across the pages of God's story, there are recurring themes present in each genre that help us understand the overarching message of His redemptive plan in Jesus Christ. You will see these themes highlighted by color in each day of study.



Character & Relationship



Who God is

How God relates to people

Who God's people are

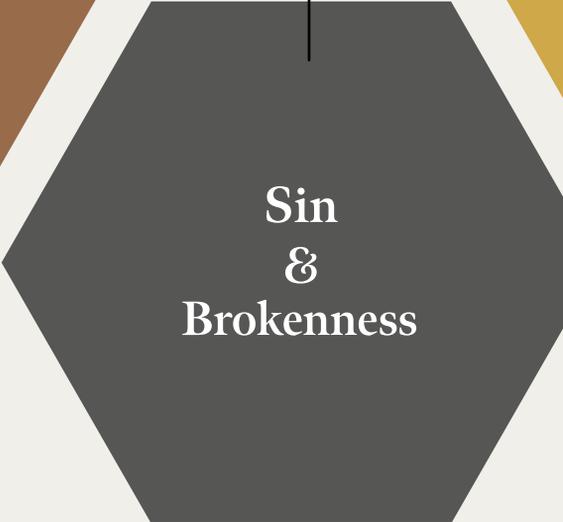
How God's people relate
to God and each other

When sin entered the world

How sin affects creation

Why people sin

How sin affects all people



Sin & Brokenness



When God plans to restore His creation

How God revealed His plan to redeem and restore

What abundant life in Christ is

What eternal life in Christ is



Redemption & Restoration



Atonement & Forgiveness



Covenant & Promise

What the old covenant was

What purpose the old covenant had

What the new covenant is

What purpose the new covenant has

God's plans for every person's future

Why Jesus came to earth

What Jesus's death on the cross means

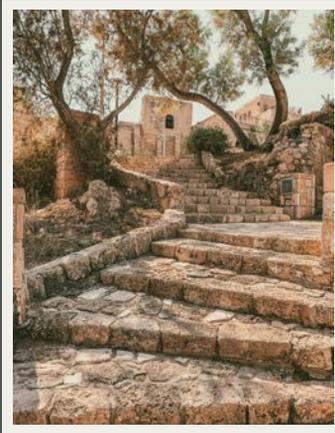
What Jesus's resurrection means

What Jesus's ascension into heaven means

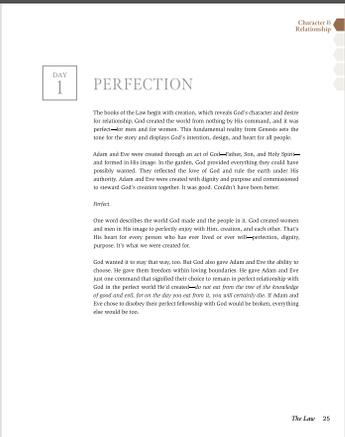
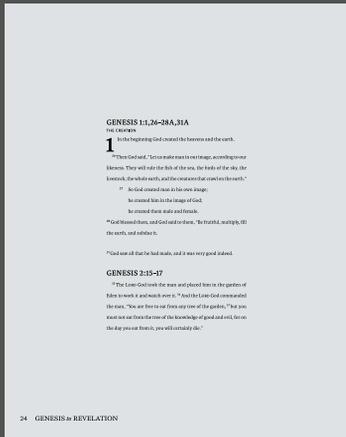
HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

Each week follows a repeated rhythm to guide you in your study of *From Genesis to Revelation* and has been designed with lots of white space, photographic imagery, and informational graphics to facilitate a time of reflection on Scripture.

The week begins with an introduction to the biblical genre of the week. Throughout each week, you'll find Scripture readings, devotions, infographics, and beautiful imagery to guide your time.

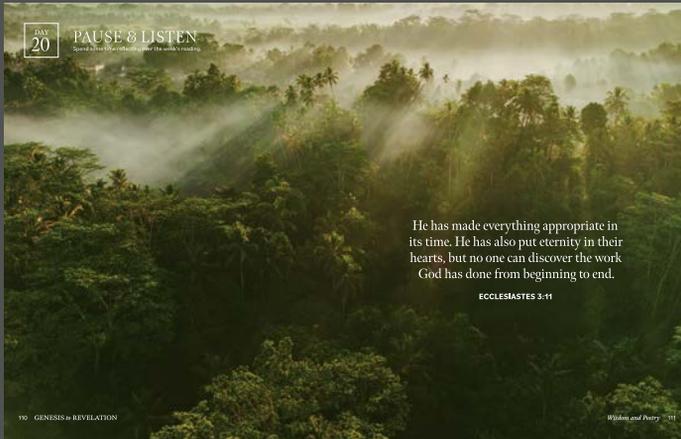


WEEK 2
HISTORICAL NARRATIVE



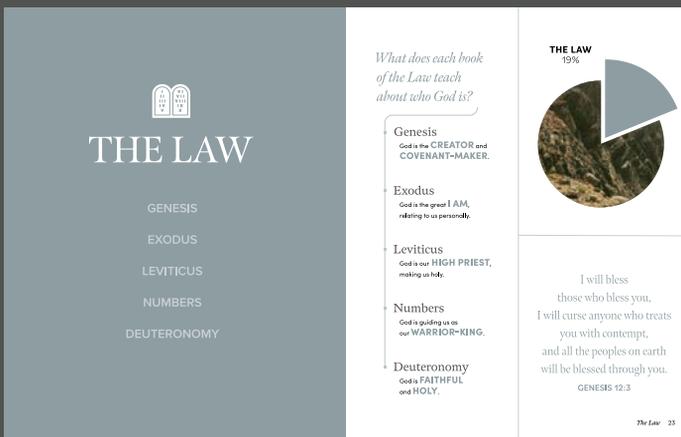
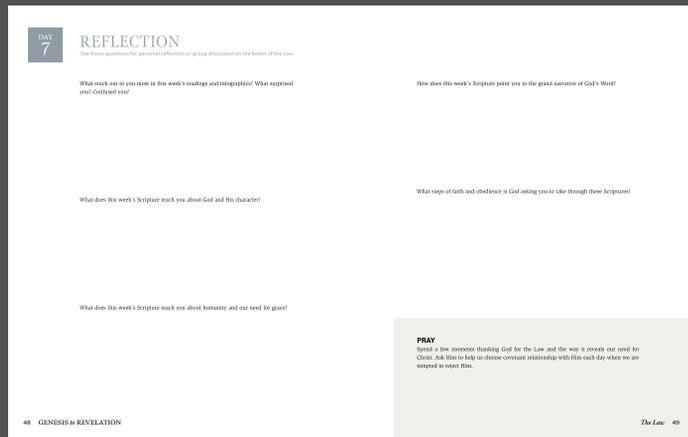
Each week includes five days of Scripture reading, along with a short devotional thought, and three questions to process what you've read.

The Scripture reading is printed out for you with plenty of space for you to take notes, circle, underline, and interact with the passage.

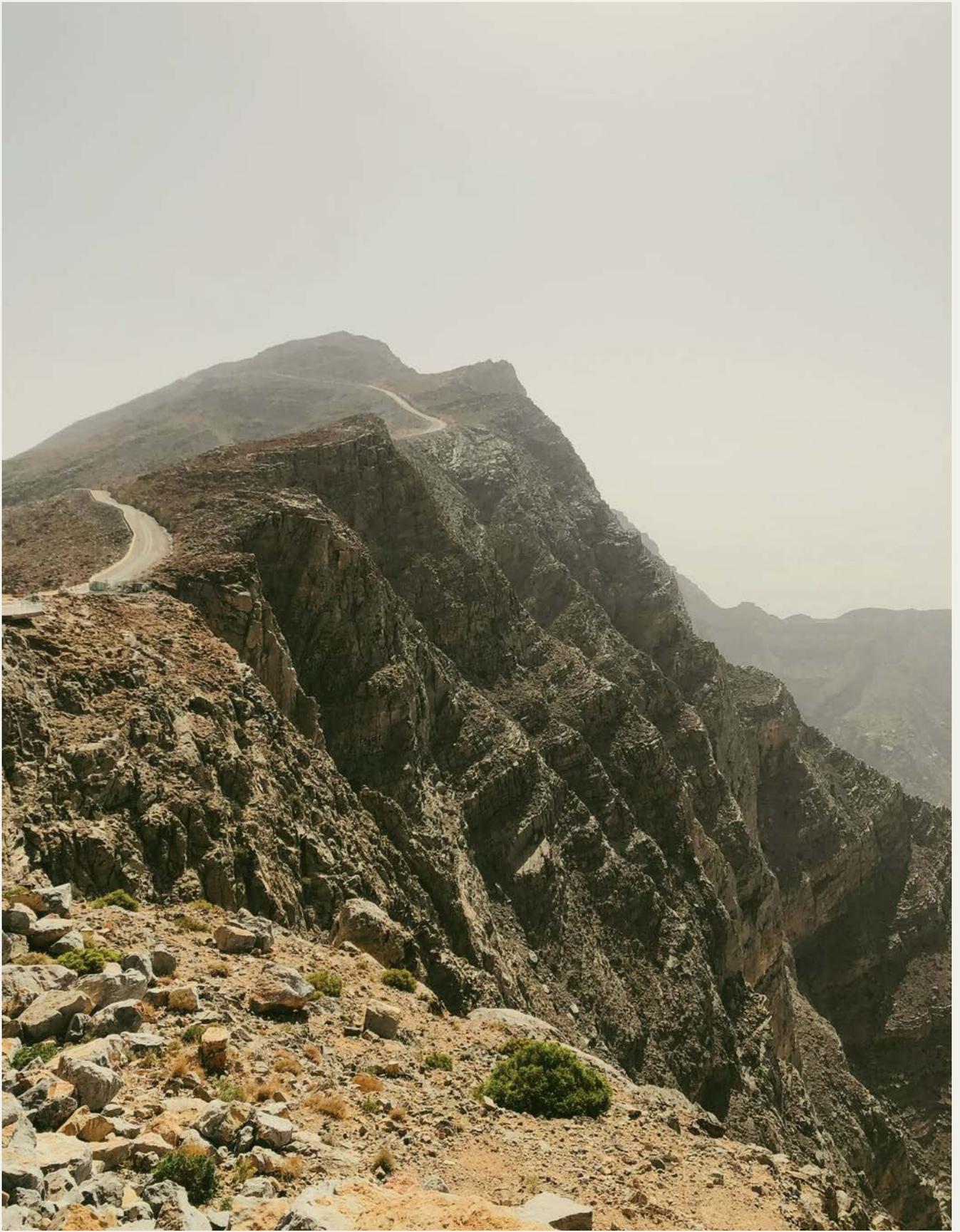


The sixth day contains no reading beyond a couple of verses to give you time to pause and listen to what God has said through the Scriptures this week. You may be tempted to skip this day altogether, but resist this temptation. Sit and be quiet with God—even if it’s only for a few minutes.

The seventh day of each week offers a list of open-ended questions that apply to any passage of Scripture. Use this day to reflect on your own or meet with a group to discuss what you’ve learned. Take intentional time to remember and reflect on what the grand narrative is teaching you.



Throughout each week of study, you will notice callout boxes and supplemental infographic pages provided to give greater context and clarity to the genre you’re studying within the grand narrative. These features will help you connect the micronarratives of God’s Word to the grand narrative of Scripture.



WEEK 1

THE LAW

God is Holy. We are not.

In the beginning God . . .

The first four words in the Bible introduce its subject. Scripture is God's story. Reading Scripture with this lens helps us encounter it looking to find His character, His activity in the world, and His purposes in our lives. God's character, activity, and purposes define our part in His story.

The books of the Law—Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy—aren't filled with simple standalone stories to tell children about creation, Noah and the ark, father Abraham and his dysfunctional family tree, Moses crossing the Red Sea, and the Ten Commandments. These micronarratives tell specific historical stories. Much more than that, they point us to the macronarrative of God's Word, which teaches us who God is and who we are in relationship to Him.

The Law forms the foundation of the gospel story.

The five books of the Law reveal the character of God, introduce the problem of sin, and point toward the ultimate solution in Jesus Christ. The Law's commands reveal the holiness of God, the unholiness of men, the consequences for sin, and the need for salvation. Our inability to measure up to the standard of God's holiness teaches us we are hopeless without Jesus. That has been true about us from the beginning.



THE LAW

GENESIS

EXODUS

LEVITICUS

NUMBERS

DEUTERONOMY

What does each book of the Law teach about who God is?

■ **Genesis**

God is the **CREATOR** and **COVENANT-MAKER**.

■ **Exodus**

God is the great **I AM**, relating to us personally.

■ **Leviticus**

God is our **HIGH PRIEST**, making us holy.

■ **Numbers**

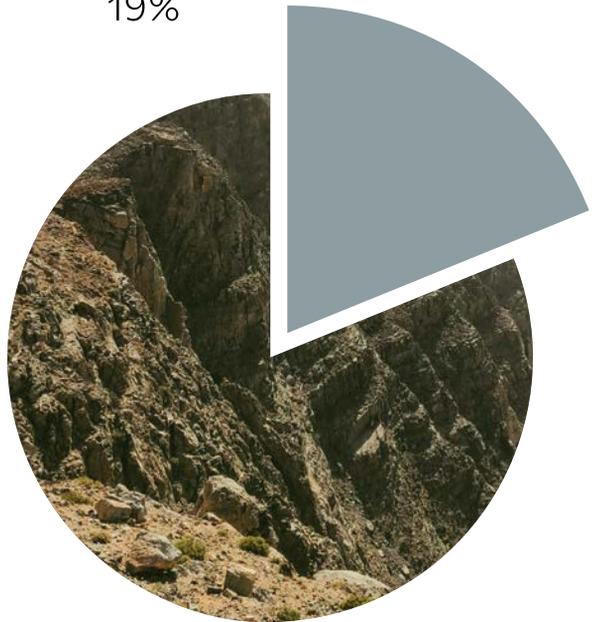
God is guiding us as our **WARRIOR-KING**.

■ **Deuteronomy**

God is **FAITHFUL** and **HOLY**.

THE LAW

19%



I will bless
those who bless you,
I will curse anyone who treats
you with contempt,
and all the peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.

GENESIS 12:3

GENESIS 1:1,26-28A,31A

THE CREATION

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.”

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

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it.

³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good indeed.

GENESIS 2:15-17

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die.”

DAY
1

PERFECTION

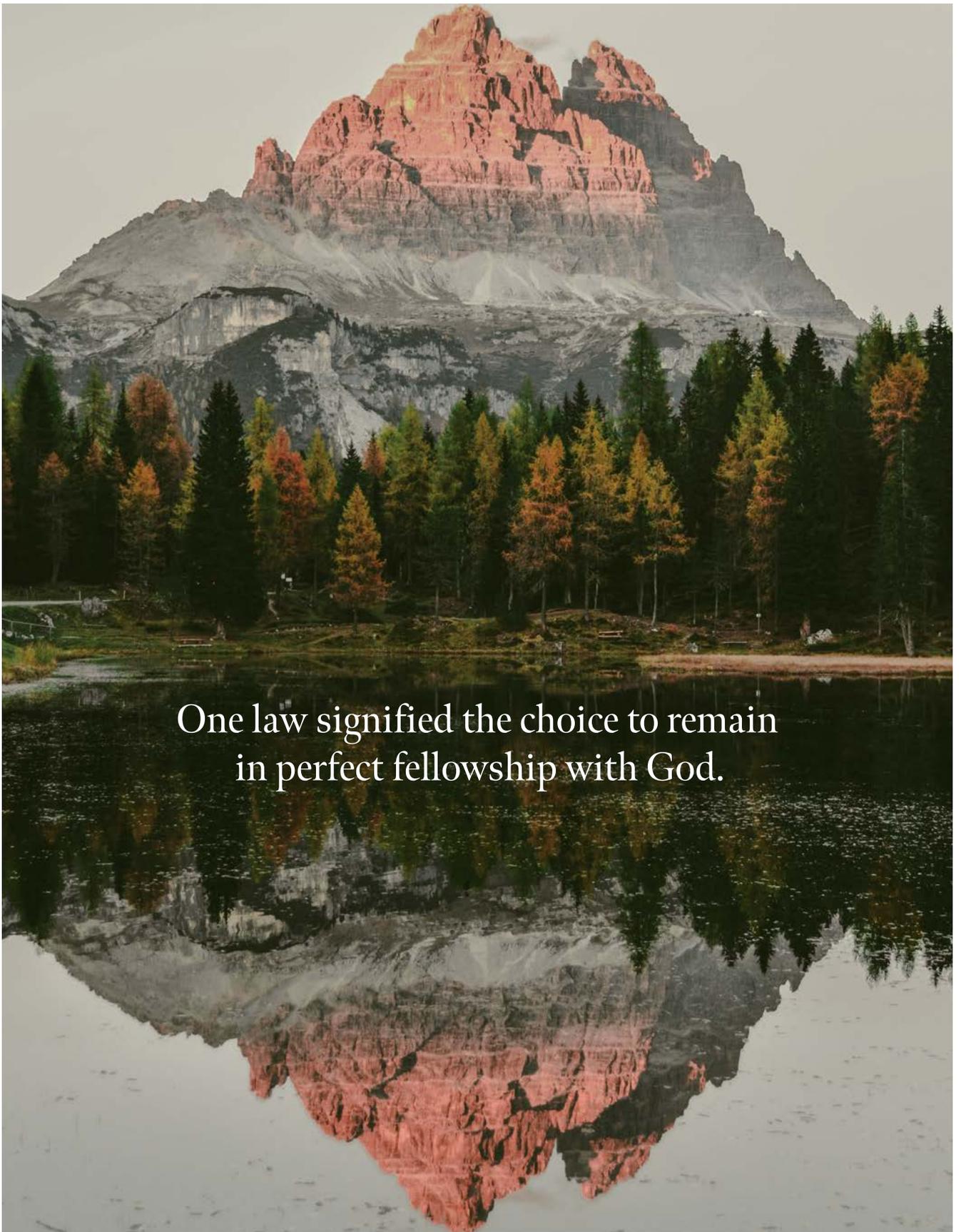
The books of the Law begin with creation, which reveals God’s character and desire for relationship. God created the world from nothing by His command, and it was perfect—for men and for women. This fundamental reality from Genesis sets the tone for the story and displays God’s intention, design, and heart for all people.

Adam and Eve were created through an act of God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and formed in His image. In the garden, God provided everything they could have wanted. They reflected the love of God and ruled the earth under His authority. Adam and Eve were created with dignity and purpose and commissioned to steward God’s creation together. It was good. Couldn’t have been better.

Perfect.

This one word describes the world God made and the people in it. God created women and men in His image to perfectly enjoy Him, creation, and each other. That’s His heart for every person who has ever lived or ever will—perfection, dignity, purpose. It’s what we were created for.

God wanted it to stay that way, too. But God also gave Adam and Eve the ability to choose. He gave them freedom within loving boundaries. He gave Adam and Eve just one command that signified their choice to remain in perfect relationship with God in the perfect world He’d created—*do not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die*. If Adam and Eve chose to disobey, their perfect fellowship with God would be broken. Everything else would be too.



One law signified the choice to remain
in perfect fellowship with God.

REFLECTIONS

God, who is perfect, “saw all that He had made,” and to Him, “it was very good indeed.” What does that tell you about God’s intention in creating the world and people, including you, to live in it?

In the beginning, there was just one rule, one law. What was it? What would obeying that one law communicate about Adam and Eve? What would not obeying it communicate?

Identify one connection you see between the creation story in Genesis 1–2 and the coming of Jesus.

CHARACTER & RELATIONSHIP

God’s character and heart for relationship is on full display from the creation account on Scripture’s very first page, across millennia of human faithlessness, to the advent of Jesus Christ and vision of His ultimate victory and eternal reign. He is who His Word proclaims. He wants to be with us forever. And He made the way for that relationship through His Son Jesus Christ.

GENESIS 3:15

¹⁵ I will put hostility between you and the woman,
and between your offspring
and her offspring.
He will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel.

GENESIS 12:1-3

THE CALL OF ABRAM

12

The LORD said to Abram:

Go from your land,
your relatives,
and your father's house
to the land that I will show you.

² I will make you into a great nation,
I will bless you,
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you,
I will curse anyone who treats you with contempt,
and all the peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.

DAY
2

PROBLEM & PROMISE

Every good story—whether true or fictional—has characters, conflict, and a resolution. Who those characters are and when that conflict appears impact how we read the story. God’s story is no different. And in God’s story, the conflict comes quickly—at the beginning of chapter 3.

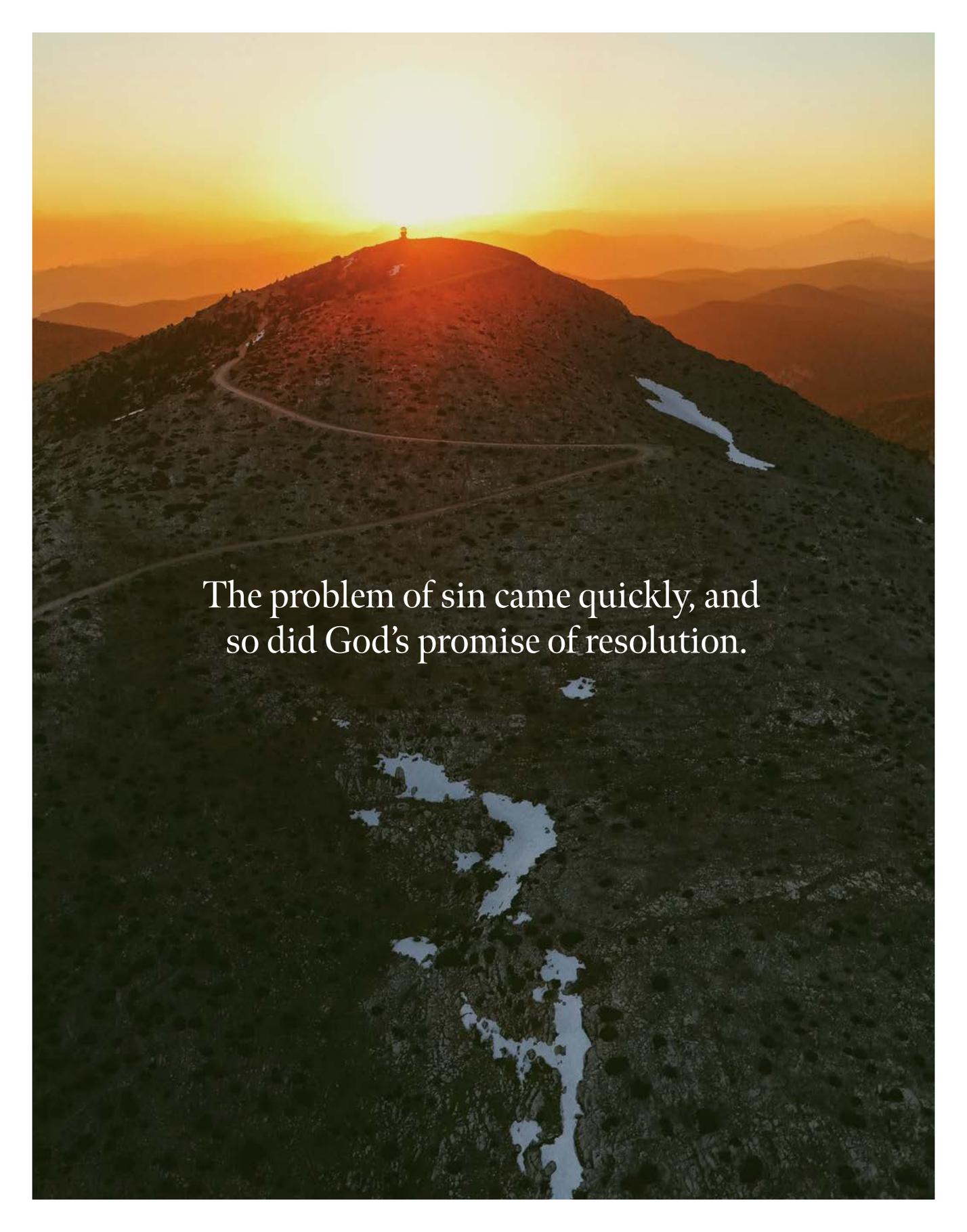
God gave Adam and Eve a boundary and clearly defined consequences. They chose poorly when their story had barely begun. They ignored God’s commands and decided they knew better, and the consequences of that choice unfolded exactly as He said they would. Sin and death entered the world. What God intended to be perfect became corrupt.

The problem of sin produced brokenness and death in humanity’s relationship to God—but it was quickly followed by the promise of resolution. Because of sin, Adam and Eve hid from God; and because of sin, God sought Adam and Eve. His character remained unchanged. He addressed the problem with grace and truth.

God immediately initiated a conversation with Adam and Eve and responded to the problem they created with a promise to deliver them through a descendant of Eve’s who would crush the serpent and destroy all evil (Genesis 3:15).

The events described in the next chapters of Genesis let Adam and Eve know that the fulfillment of the promise might not come quickly. They conceived children who inherited the corruption of sin, and those children had children, and the corruption spread further. But God’s promise remained and was reaffirmed to a man named Abraham.

God initiated a covenant with Abraham that shaped the rest of the Bible. In choosing to follow God in obedience, Abraham would be blessed by God, and so would all people on earth. Through Abraham and his family, God would begin to address the central conflict of the Bible—sin and death.

A photograph of a mountain landscape at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow over the scene. A winding dirt path leads up a hillside towards the peak. Patches of snow are visible on the slopes. The sky is a mix of orange and yellow, with distant mountain ranges visible in the background.

The problem of sin came quickly, and
so did God's promise of resolution.

REFLECTIONS

In your own words, name the promise God made in Genesis 3:15. Then, name the promise God made in Genesis 12:1-3.

What is an example of a time you have struggled to recognize God's promise of resolution when facing a daunting problem? What can help you remain aware of God's promises in difficult circumstances?

Why is it important that we each acknowledge our own conflict in the grand narrative of God's story?

SIN & BROKENNESS

God didn't hunt Adam and Eve down to scold them. In Genesis 3, He asked four questions to help these people He loved to come out of hiding and own the reality of what they'd done—so their relationship with Him could continue in the fullness of truth (the problem their actions caused) and grace (the promise of an ultimate solution). Similarly, the Law doesn't just explain what's wrong; it points us to a solution. The rest of the Law unfolds in the shadow of God's Genesis 3:15 promise.

EXODUS 6:6-8

⁶“Therefore tell the Israelites: I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from the forced labor of the Egyptians and rescue you from slavery to them. I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and great acts of judgment. ⁷I will take you as my people, and I will be your God. You will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from the forced labor of the Egyptians. ⁸I will bring you to the land that I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it to you as a possession. I am the LORD.”

EXODUS 12:21-23

²¹Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go, select an animal from the flock according to your families, and slaughter the Passover animal. ²²Take a cluster of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and brush the lintel and the two doorposts with some of the blood in the basin. None of you may go out the door of his house until morning. ²³When the LORD passes through to strike Egypt and sees the blood on the lintel and the two doorposts, he will pass over the door and not let the destroyer enter your houses to strike you.

EXODUS 14:29-30

²⁹But the Israelites had walked through the sea on dry ground, with the waters like a wall to them on their right and their left. ³⁰That day the LORD saved Israel from the power of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.

EXODUS 20:1-3

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

20 Then God spoke all these words:

² I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the place of slavery.

³ Do not have other gods besides me.

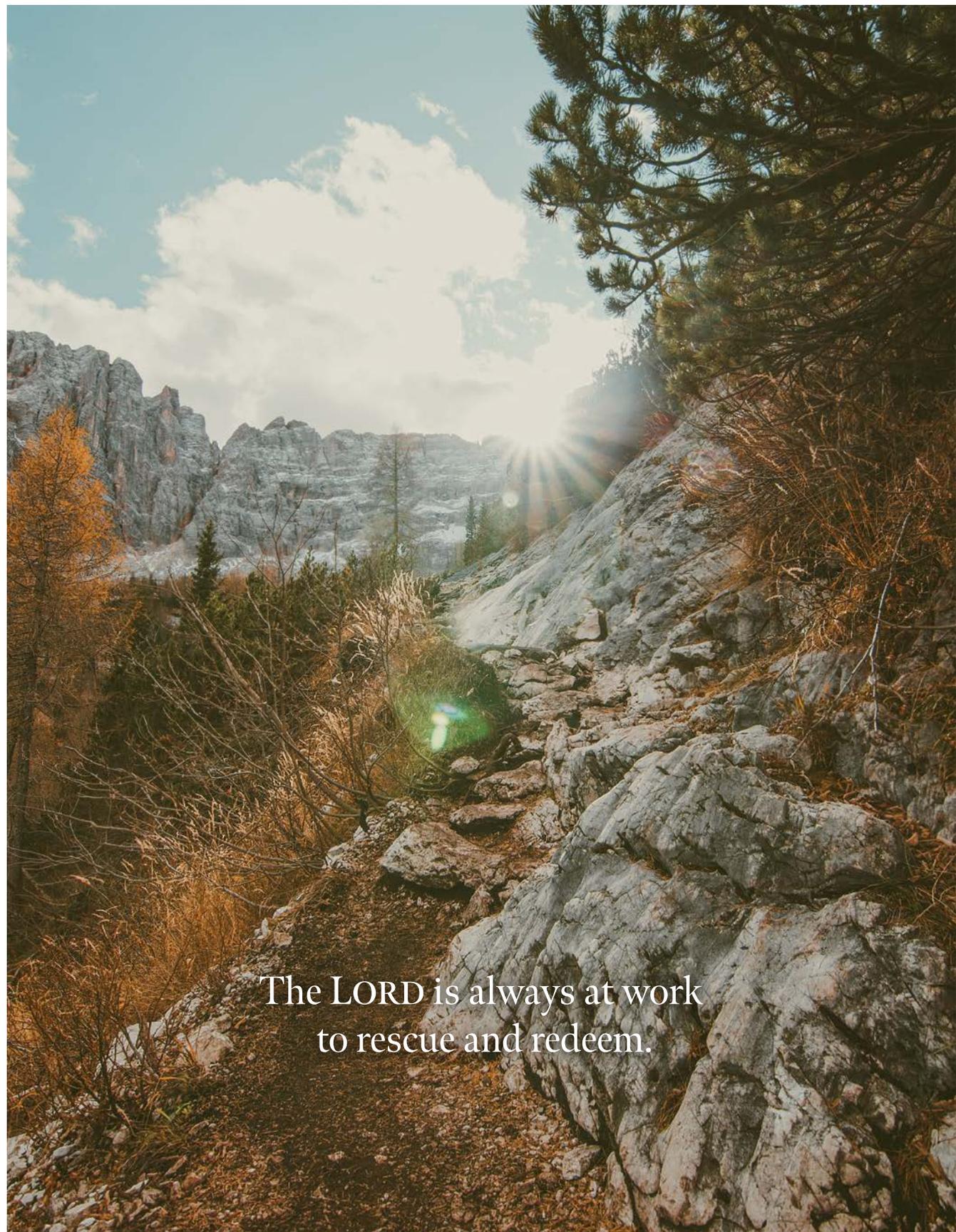
About 465 years passed from the time of Abraham in Genesis 12 to the time of Moses in Exodus 1. In between, God was faithful to Abraham and expanded his family, the Israelites. Eventually, they were enslaved in Egypt, suffering under the oppressive hand of a pharaoh who had no knowledge or regard for an Israelite named Joseph, who had saved Egypt from famine (Exodus 1:1-8). God's promise of redemption remained, but their daily experience likely made the fulfillment of that promise seem far off.

His work continued in the details of the life of a Hebrew named Moses who, by God's sovereign hand, had grown up in Pharaoh's palace, under his care, with fluency in Egyptian culture.

After a series of events led him away from that palace and culture, God appeared to Moses in a fiery flame in a bush that did not burn up. His purpose? To reiterate His promise to save Israel and make them His people. And to declare that He is the LORD—the personal God who wanted to be seen and known by them.

The subsequent chapters display God's power in the plagues, His provision in the Passover, His rescue in the exodus, and His holiness in giving the Law. These stories show God's work of redemption in action.

The miraculous way He rescued Israel from slavery left no doubt of His power and faithfulness. The Passover provided a continual reminder of redemption. The Law demonstrated God's desire to live with His redeemed people. And it provides us a picture of the greater reality of Jesus Christ, whose power over death raises us from the dead, whose provision justifies us before God, whose rescue gives us freedom to live free from sin, and whose new law gives us the ability to live at peace with God and others.



The LORD is always at work
to rescue and redeem.

REFLECTIONS

What tends to distract your focus from God's promises: difficult circumstances, comfortable circumstances, the passage of time, or something else?

Have you considered the Ten Commandments as part of God's plan of redemption and restoration? Why are God's commands an integral piece of the redemption story?

Read Exodus 11:1–12:13. Identify one connection you see between the final plague in Exodus and the gospel of Jesus Christ.

REDEMPTION & RESTORATION

Exodus teaches God's power to save and introduces the Law as a way of life for redeemed people. The Law also helps us know that, in our human nature, we're not very good rule followers. It is in that reality that the Law reveals God's heart as Redeemer, setting the stage for a greater rescue through Jesus Christ. The all-caps "LORD" in English translations used in both of today's texts indicates instances where the original Hebrew text said *YHWH*, the personal name of God, rather than the general word for *Lord*. This further signifies God's personal intention and plan to redeem and restore us.

LEVITICUS 16:30

³⁰ Atonement will be made for you on this day to cleanse you, and you will be clean from all your sins before the LORD.

LEVITICUS 19:1-2

LAWS OF HOLINESS

19 The LORD spoke to Moses: ²“Speak to the entire Israelite community and tell them: Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.”

DAY
4

PROVISION

As we make our way through the books of Law, the record of transgressions grows. From Adam and Eve onward, every person who ever lived was impacted by the curse of sin and the need for redemption. Thankfully, God has provided everything we need to be redeemed.

God's holiness requires that people who walk with Him also be holy. But since we aren't holy, a sacrifice was required to bridge the gap between us and God. God first demonstrated sin's need for sacrifice by covering Adam and Eve with clothing made from animal skins (Genesis 3:21). All sins require covering.

This was made more clear in the first Passover, where a spotless lamb was sacrificed and its blood marked the homes of God's people, sparing them from judgment. God commanded His people to remember and celebrate the Passover "throughout [their] generations" (Exodus 12:14), and used this one event to establish a pattern of sacrifice moving forward. In His sovereignty, He purposed a more immediate provision—a system of sacrifice introduced in the Law to teach men and women about sin, holiness, and the need for a substitute.

Moving into Leviticus, we read about the Day of Atonement, the holiest day of the year. The high priest would complete a lengthy list of rituals to ready himself to enter into God's presence in the tabernacle. Then, and only then, the high priest would enter the Most Holy Place to offer animal sacrifices so that God's people would be cleansed from their sins.

This was a day of fasting, repentance, and forgiveness that would allow God's people to hear from Him and anticipate the fulfillment of His promise for full and final atonement. Like all Old Testament sacrifices, it foreshadowed Christ's once-for-all sacrifice on the cross.

The blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God, was shed on the cross to save us from the penalty of sin. We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus, set free to follow God, and led into new life.

All sins require covering.



REFLECTIONS

Read Leviticus 16:1-30. What does the Day of Atonement reveal about the seriousness of sin and the holiness of God?

What does it mean to you personally that Jesus made a once-for-all atonement for your sins?

In what areas of your life are you tempted to hide sin rather than confess and receive God's cleansing?



ATONEMENT & FORGIVENESS

The Law teaches that sin separates unholy people from the holy God—but also that God provides a way back through atonement. In the Old Testament, atonement was associated with sacrificial offerings to remove the effects of sin and bring forgiveness.²

JESUS & THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

I

Do not have other gods besides me.

“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, and even his own life—he cannot be my disciple.” Luke 14:26

II

Do not make an idol for yourself, whether in the shape of anything in the heavens above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth.

“God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and in truth.” John 4:24

III

Do not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

“I tell you that on the day of judgment people will have to account for every careless word they speak.” Matthew 12:36

IV

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

“Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28

V

Honor your father and your mother.

“For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.” Matthew 12:50

VI

Do not murder.

“But I tell you, everyone who is angry with his brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Whoever insults his brother or sister will be subject to the court. Whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be subject to hellfire.” Matthew 5:22

VII

Do not commit adultery.

“But I tell you, everyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” Matthew 5:28

VIII

Do not steal.

“ . . . go, sell your belongings and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” Matthew 19:21b

IX

Do not give false testimony.

“But let your ‘yes’ mean ‘yes,’ and your ‘no’ mean ‘no.’ Anything more than this is from the evil one.” Matthew 5:37

X

Do not covet.

“Don’t store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don’t break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:19-21

NUMBERS 14:21-24

²¹Yet as I live and as the whole earth is filled with the LORD's glory,²² none of the men who have seen my glory and the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tested me these ten times and did not obey me,²³ will ever see the land I swore to give their ancestors. None of those who have despised me will see it.²⁴ But since my servant Caleb has a different spirit and has remained loyal to me, I will bring him into the land where he has gone, and his descendants will inherit it.

DEUTERONOMY 30:15-20

¹⁵See, today I have set before you life and prosperity, death and adversity.¹⁶ For I am commanding you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, statutes, and ordinances, so that you may live and multiply, and the LORD your God may bless you in the land you are entering to possess.¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not listen and you are led astray to bow in worship to other gods and serve them,¹⁸ I tell you today that you will certainly perish and will not prolong your days in the land you are entering to possess across the Jordan.¹⁹ I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live,²⁰ love the LORD your God, obey him, and remain faithful to him. For he is your life, and he will prolong your days as you live in the land the LORD swore to give to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”

DAY
5POSSIBILITIES &
THE PROMISED LAND

In Genesis 12, God made a promise to provide Abraham descendants, land, and blessing. God appeared to Abraham again and confirmed these promises in a covenant in Genesis 15 and 17. In the Scriptures, a covenant is a promise in which God obligates Himself to His people to reveal Himself and enter relationship in terms of an oath.

God is always faithful to His covenant. His people are often unfaithful. Israel broke faith with God again and again, but God's promises remained. As God deals with His people, He always reminds us of His covenant faithfulness (Exodus 6:5-8).

Later in Exodus, God gave Israel commands to follow to demonstrate their identity as His covenant people (Exodus 20). But the people repeatedly rebelled and disobeyed, which led to forty years of wilderness wandering that we read about in Numbers. When we get to Deuteronomy, the people are done with their wandering and God again reaffirms His covenant promise as a choice between life and death, blessing and curse.

As Israel stood on the edge of the Promised Land, God called them to respond to His covenant, echoing the ongoing call to follow God repeated throughout Scripture. Our response to His call has two possible outcomes—life or death.

This was true in the days of Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Caleb and Joshua, and it is true today. We can love God, entering into covenant relationship with hearts turned toward Him to receive life—or we can turn away from Him to follow the gods of this world and embrace the sin and death that follows.

In the books of the Law, that life God offers was represented by the promise of a land God's people would possess on earth. But the promise didn't end there! It pointed forward to a new covenant, with life that knows no end. God's gift of eternal life in relationship with Jesus Christ is a promise we each must choose to believe in order to see the place He is preparing for us (John 14).

God's covenant promise offers
two choices—life or death.



REFLECTIONS

What two choices did God give Israel in today's passages?

What two choices are before you each and every day? Does your life demonstrate only the choice of life in Christ? Why?

What step can you take this week to more fully live as a covenant partner with God, walking in obedience and trust?



COVENANT & PROMISE

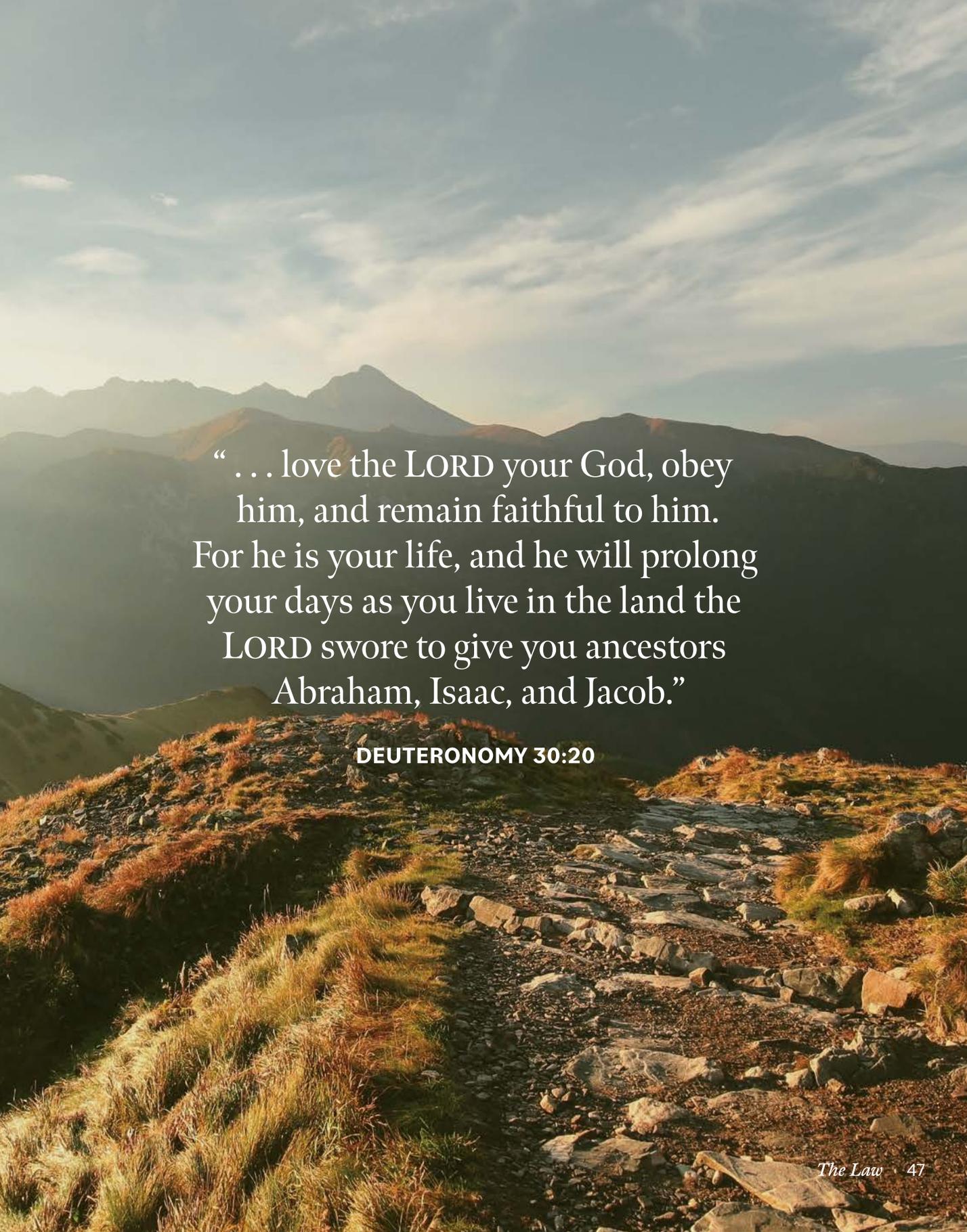
In Numbers, the doubt and disobedience of God's people delayed His promises, but He continued to carry out His covenant through a faithful remnant. The Law then ends with a call to make a choice that Jesus later fulfills—life with God or death apart from Him (John 14:6).

DAY
6

PAUSE & LISTEN

Spend some time reflecting over the week's reading.





“ . . . love the LORD your God, obey him, and remain faithful to him. For he is your life, and he will prolong your days as you live in the land the LORD swore to give you ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”

DEUTERONOMY 30:20

REFLECTION

Use these questions for personal reflection or group discussion on the books of the Law.

What stuck out to you most in this week's readings and infographics?

What surprised you? Confused you?

What does this week's Scripture teach you about God and His character?

What does this week's Scripture teach you about humanity and our need for grace?

How does this week's Scripture point you to the grand narrative of God's Word?

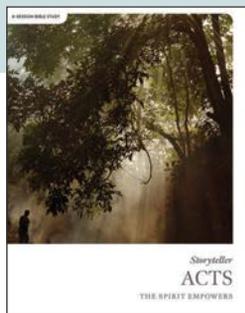
What steps of faith and obedience is God asking you to take through these Scriptures?

PRAY

Spend a few moments thanking God for the Law and the way it reveals your need for Christ. Ask Him to help you choose covenant relationship with Him each day when you are tempted to reject Him.

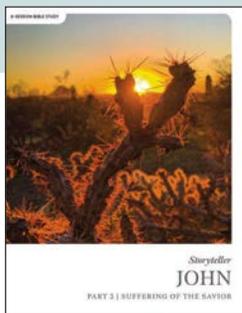
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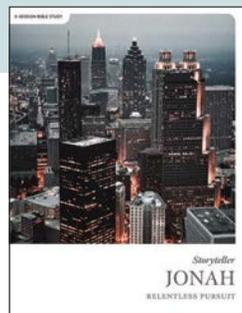
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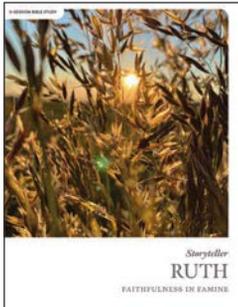
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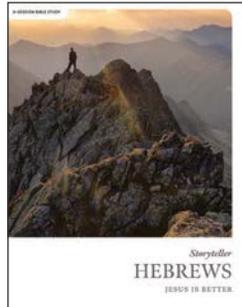


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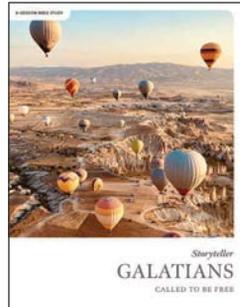
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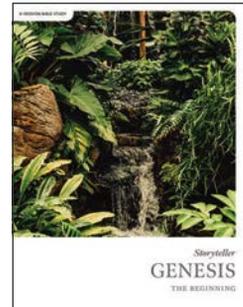
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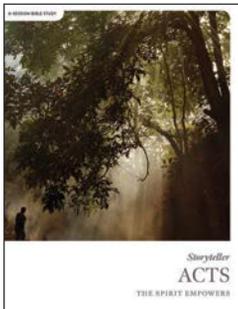
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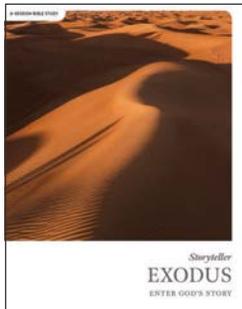
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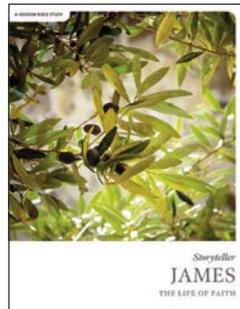
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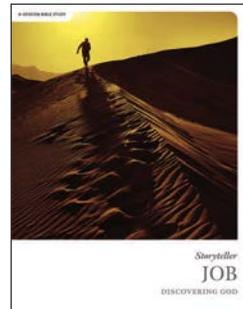
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3. Timeline adapted from chronology, maps, and book introductions in *CSB Study Bible* (see *CSB Study Bible* commentary pages on Judges, 1–2 Samuel, 1–2 Kings, and 2 Chronicles). Adaptation and event pairings based on CSB chapter notes and kings chronology.
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