



The G.E.M.

Volume 3 Edition 2

The Grace Electronic Magazine

February 2009

REFLECT ON LOVE

February is traditionally the month of love due to Valentine's Day, and this is when we celebrate our relationship with our loved one. But who should we remember? God. We must remember the love that God has for us in sending His Son to die for us. As we grow in the knowledge of that love and allow it to be part of us, it will grow in our hearts and will overflow to the people around us.

Speaking of Valentine's be sure to buy your copy of the long-awaited DVD *Fireproof*. This movie has changed more lives and touched more hearts than any other. Why not buy a few copies for wedding or anniversary presents, or for those couples who need a bit of a lift. Or simply just buy a copy for yourself to watch with your partner this Valentine's Day, and allow its message to impact your life.

Our main article on page 3 looks at the death of Jesus from an Old Testament perspective, and is one that will give you a different view on a very popular Sunday School story.

Keeping with our focus of going back to the Word in 2009, *Bible Basics* on page 2 gives you a brief introduction to the book of Exodus.

Remember that we are the largest stockists of small group and ministry resources in the Bedfordview/Edenvale areas, so if there is anything that you need in that regard, please pay us a visit and see what we have in stock for you. If there is anything specific that you need, please do not hesitate to ask and we will find it for you.

Until next time, God bless.
Glyn and Linda. †

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VALENTINE'S DAY 2009

Rekindle your marriage with these and other great titles this Valentine's day.



Fireproof DVD
R150



The Love Dare
As seen in the movie *Fireproof*
R160

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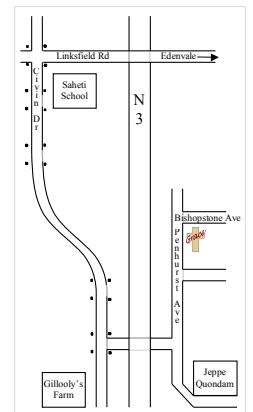
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BIBLE BASICS

Exodus

The Book of Deliverance

Genesis ended with the Israelites arriving in Egypt. This is followed by roughly 400 years of silence and then begins the events of Exodus. A book that begins with darkness and gloom, but goes on to show God working with the nation of Israel with grace, and ending with God dwelling with His people in the tabernacle.

The name Exodus comes from the Greek word meaning "way out".

Author and Date: Like Genesis, it is traditionally accepted that Exodus was also written by Moses. It would have been written sometime during the exodus itself, so this would date it around 1440-1400 BC.

Theme: There are five main themes to the book:

1. God's mighty acts displayed before Pharaoh and all Egypt.
2. Passover is instituted, which will mark the beginning of each new year for Israel.
3. Law covenant is instituted in addition to the covenant with Abraham already in place.
4. The content of law is laid out for the nation.
5. Worship and the priesthood is established.

Structure: The book of Exodus is roughly one half narrative detailing Israel's deliverance from slavery in Egypt. The second half outlines the system of laws that God sought to have shape the nation of Israel into a strong and holy nation.

Basic Outline:

Chapter 1-4	Moses, the Man of God
5-12	God's mighty acts
13-18	The journey to Sinai
19	Law Covenant made
20	The Ten Commandments
21-24	Case law illustrations
25-27	Tabernacle Design
28-31	Priesthood
32-34	The Golden Calf
35-40	Tabernacle Constructed

Purpose: Up till the close of Genesis, mankind has known of God as the creator and moral judge through the teachings of the creation and the flood. The Patriarchs knew God as the covenant-making God who established a relationship with man through the line of Abraham.

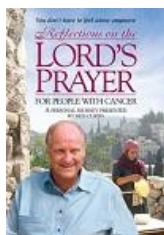
Now, to a people living in slavery God reveals more about His character and person, that of an ever-present, miracle working, faithful and holy Saviour.

Conclusion: American evangelist D. L. Moody (1832-1899) summed up the life of Moses the best:

Moses spent:
40 years thinking he was somebody,
40 years learning to be a nobody, and
40 years discovering what God can do with a nobody. †

PRODUCT REVIEWS

REFLECTIONS ON THE LORD'S PRAYER DVD



Following the success of the *Reflections on Psalm 23* DVD, this new title by Ken Curtis looks at the various aspects of the Lord's Prayer, making particular references for people who are going through cancer or any other health crisis.

Filmed on location while in Israel with his family, Ken shares his life and his own experiences with cancer and other health issues.

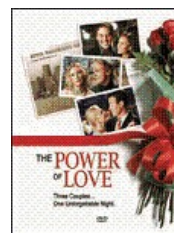
This DVD gives hope to the hurting by making one realise that no one is alone in their struggle. There are others who are going through the same thing, some of them worse than our own. But it also reminds us that God is there with us through the difficulty, no matter how difficult or hopeless the situation may seem.

This DVD encourages us to find the joy in our difficulties and to gain a sense of ease with our current situation as we place our lives into the very hands of God.

As with *Reflections on Psalm 23*, this DVD will minister into the lives of all who are experiencing health, or other seemingly hopeless difficulties.

Our price: R120

THE POWER OF LOVE DVD



Cameron, a student at Harvard agrees to take a break from his busy student life and go to the dance. He finds the nerve to ask his older brother's ex-girlfriend Zoe, to join him. They only stay long enough to make Cameron's ex-girlfriend jealous.

Howard, a witty, successful and career-obsessed day trader gets pressed into acting as emcee for the dance. His date is Alyson, a sweet, kind-hearted single mother of two who is really excited about her first post-divorce date. But can Alyson see her way through Howard's insensitive and sarcastic wit?

When he's teaching at school, Charles Gordon is the ultimate genius on romance and Shakespeare. But at home, he seems to resemble Hamlet more closely than Romeo. Charles and his wife Laura end up going to the dance separately. The story reveals a relationship that has been slowly deteriorating.

The Power of Love unveils the passion, heartache and hope to which any couple can relate.

Our price: R120



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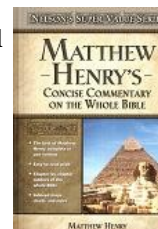
Top 25 Must Reads

Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary on the Bible

Matthew Henry had the rare ability to express profound spiritual insights with simplicity and eloquence. Over the years his writings have been read for both their scholarship and devotion, and none more than the classic *Commentary on the Whole Bible*. This commentary allows you to develop lessons and sermons as well as highlight the organisation of each book and chapter.

Matthew Henry is always good and trustworthy. This is a great volume to give to graduating students and to families for their devotion times, in addition to the Bible.

This is a must have commentary for any person wanting to learn more about the Bible and its message.



R 230

A HOLY SACRIFICE

In Genesis 22 we read the amazing story of Abraham and his obedience to God in being willing to sacrifice his son Isaac. This is an intriguing story and one that seems to defy human logic. Why would any father be willing to obey a voice from heaven and go and sacrifice his own son? However, as we investigate this story more, an amazing picture emerges, one that only God Himself could have put together.

The Call to Sacrifice

“Then God said, ‘Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about.’ (v2)

We so often read this as a command, however the Hebrew of “take” in this verse is actually two words that should rather be translated as “I beseech you to take.” The difference seems subtle, but in actual fact, God is not telling Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, but rather asking him to. The decision was Abraham's. If he did not do it, he would not have been disobeying God, but it would most certainly not have been the right thing to do. Abraham was to do it willingly.

Abraham here becomes for us a picture of our Father in Heaven, who of His own free will, offered His Son to be sacrificed for our sins. He did not have to do it, but He did it anyway. It was the loving thing to do.

We see also that God refers to Isaac as Abraham's only son. We all know the story of how Abraham had slept with Hagar who then conceived Ishmael. However, he was not the child of the promise, and was cut off from Abraham's seed. Ishmael here then becomes a picture of Adam, who, through his sin in eating the forbidden fruit, was cut off from the promises of God. It is only through Christ that man is reconciled back to God.

Another important fact here about Isaac being the only son is that Jesus too is the only Son of God. The most quoted verse in the entire Bible, John 3:16, stresses this very point.

But John 3:16 has another parallel to Genesis, relevant to this story. Did you know that the first time love is mentioned in the book of John is here in 3:16. Amazing as that may seem, here is something else more amazing: the first time the word love is mentioned in the entire Bible is here in Genesis 22:2. Abraham's love is paralleled with God's love for Jesus. Yet despite this love, both Abraham and God were willing to offer their sons as a sacrifice for God's glory.

But the story continues.

The Willing Sacrifice

One misconception that we have as a result of much of the teaching we received in Sunday School as children is that Isaac was only a young boy. Jewish tradition however, tells us that Isaac was actually between the ages of twenty-three and thirty-seven at this

point. This explains why we do not read of Isaac resisting Abraham for tying him on the altar to be sacrificed. He also accepted it.

And how old was Jesus when He too accepted the role and was crucified? About thirty-three.

The Location

The location is also significant. Moriah is the present city of Jerusalem, and there are two possible locations within Jerusalem where this sacrifice is said to have taken place. The first is the area where the Temple was built, where the present Dome of the Rock is situated. The other is a little further north on a hill called Golgotha. Need I say more.

If that does not make your throat choke up, there's more!

The Journey

“On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance.” (v4)

Abraham took three days to reach Moriah from his home in Beersheba. I believe it would be safe to say that during those three days thoughts of what was going to happen were on Abraham's mind. One might even go so far as to say that in his mind, Isaac was already dead to him. Think about it, how long was Jesus dead in the grave?

When they arrived, Abraham told his servants to wait at the base of Mount Moriah while Isaac and him went up the mount to worship, and followed by saying, *“and then we will come back to you.” Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife.” (vv5-6a)*

Here we see two more important aspects to the story. Firstly the words of Abraham indicated that both he and Isaac were going to return. To understand this we need to turn to Hebrews 11: *“By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, ‘It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.’ Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death” (vv17-19).*

Clearly Abraham believed that even though he was going to sacrifice his son, God was going to raise him from the dead. This is pointing us once again to Jesus accepting His role as our sacrifice. He knew that He was going to die, but He also knew that He would be raised from the dead three days later.

The second thing to notice is in verse 6; Abraham placed the burden of carrying the wood uphill for the fire, on Isaac. Now look at this verse in the account of Jesus' crucifixion, *“Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha)” (John 19:17).*

Like Isaac, Jesus bore the wood for His own sacrifice, up hill, on His own back.

“Jesus bore the wood for His own sacrifice”

“The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.” (vv7c-8)

Abraham's answer here is extremely prophetic. In Hebrew the word translated as “provide” literally means to see. A literal translation could therefore be, “God will see Himself a lamb.” We know that God stopped Abraham from going through with the sacrifice by providing a ram, but is this not what God did thousands of years later? As per the words of John the Baptist, *“Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29).* Jesus Himself was the lamb.

In Conclusion

When you read the whole story, the number of parallels between this and Christ's death and resurrection are astounding, but here is one more that will blow your mind.

“Then Abraham returned to his servants, and they set off together for Beersheba. And Abraham stayed in Beersheba.” (v19)

It is generally understood that even though it only talks about Abraham here, Isaac was with him. However, it is important to note that Isaac is not mentioned again until Genesis 24 where we read of Abraham sending out his chief servant to find a bride for Isaac and to bring her back to him.

The custom of the time was that if one did not have a son as an heir, the chief servant would inherit it all. Bearing this mind, if we go back to Genesis 15 we see that this servant's name was Eliezer. So far insignificant until you find out what the name means; Comforter.

After Jesus ascended into heaven, He sent us the Holy Spirit, also referred to as the comforter. It is the Holy Spirit who, in the last days, will bring Jesus' bride, the church, to Him.

The story of Abraham and Isaac is not just a nice story to teach our children at Sunday School, but it contains an awesome picture about the God that we serve and His plan for His people. †

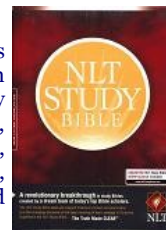
“both Abraham and God were willing to offer their sons as a sacrifice for God's glory”

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THAT'S IN THE BIBLE?

How well do you know the Good Book?

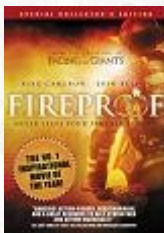
- Which one of the following was not a son of Jacob?
 - Judah
 - Reuben
 - Ephraim
 - Benjamin
- Joseph was sold into slavery by which brother?
 - Laban
 - Judah
 - Dan
 - Asher
- Which of the following was married to Abraham?
 - Keturah
 - Hagar
 - Sarah
 - A & C
- Which of the following towns did Abraham not live?
 - Beersheba
 - Gerar
 - Haran
 - Jerusalem
- How old was Abraham when he died?
 - 175
 - 185
 - 180
 - 190
- What did Jacob name the place where he had the dream of the ladder and the angels?
 - Haran
 - Beersheba
 - Bethel
 - Padam Aram
- Whose sack did Joseph hide the silver cup in?
 - Simeon
 - Benjamin
 - Reuben
 - Judah
- In what region did Jacob and his sons settle after they left Canaan?
 - Goshen
 - Luz
 - Midian
 - Mamre

Answers in the Next Edition

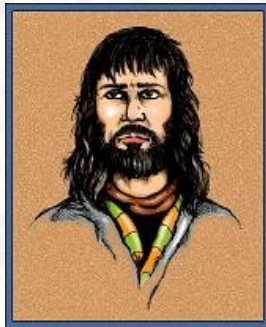
5. East (Gen 3:24) 6. Abraham (Gen 12:1) 7. All of the Above
18:12) 3. Leah (Gen 29:25) 4. Household gods (Gen 31:30)
Last Month's Answers: 1. Protected (Gen 4) 2. Laughed (Gen

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T K I T Y A S L T R A S J
E H N H G J E I E A H G Q
C P G A J A A Z I I A F I
I P H I M F E C L C R Y J
F V R H R I B K O G B L O
I M S L L H W M P B A D J
R I I E B L T R A C H E L
C P Z W E R L R B R A I E
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S U R D B E E C L B A Y L
R S D A T R S A A R S H E
I A N R S U I A A Q V A W
L H I H H A S S P W Q P T
L Y E X A S E I B R E L C
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A P N Y L Q E A T F V Z F
P S F A I C G E H U D P J
L M M X B H R L E U S H R
U I J O S E P H L D Y G Y

Find the following words in the above grid.

Abraham	Beersheba	Bethel	Bilhah	Birthright	Eliezer
Esau	Faith	Genesis	Hagar	Isaac	Ishmael
Israel	Jacob	Joseph	Laban	Ladder	Leah
Moriah	Rachel	Sacrifice	Sarah	Twelve	Zilpah

DIARY OF EVENTS

Ester Konferensie 2009

13-15 Maart 2009
NG Moreletapark, Pretoria

Daniel 2009 Mannekonferensie

20-21 Maart 2009
NG Moreletapark, Pretoria

Children's Ministry & Sunday School Teachers Conference

21 March 2009
Bryanston Methodist Church

Beauty for Ashes Women's Conference

22-24 May 2009
Rivers Church, Sandton

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But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8