



The G.E.M.

Volume 3 Edition 3

The Grace Electronic Magazine

March 2009

REFLECT ON HOLINESS

March is a time of preparation for the Easter season that is either at the end of March or the beginning of April. But it is also the month of change. A new financial year begins for most businesses, our Jewish brothers celebrate their new year, and the Southern hemisphere begins to turn into numerous shades of orange and brown. Take some time this month to observe those changes around you, and thank God for his holiness and His wonderful creation.

In this month's edition of *The G.E.M.* we continue our tour through the Bible with the book of Leviticus, and also examine God's holy revelation of Himself to Moses on Mount Sinai. Our regular review is on page 2, and our ever popular Fun Page is on page 4. We hope you enjoy this month's edition.

Do take note of an exciting event taking place at Bryanston Methodist Church, the annual Children's Ministry Conference. We as Grace Media will be there with some exciting children's products, so if you are planning on attending, visit our stand to see what we have for you. As a result, please note that we will be closed on the public holiday, Saturday 21 March.

Be sure to check out our website on a regular basis as we update product information, event news, and other items of interest. Visit us at: www.gracemedia.co.za

Until next time, have a blessed March.
Glyn and Linda.



In This Issue

Bible Basics	2
Product Reviews	2
Top 25 Must Reads	2
God's Revelation	3
Fun Page	4
Diary of Events	4

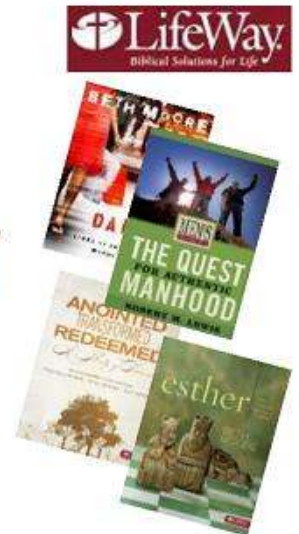
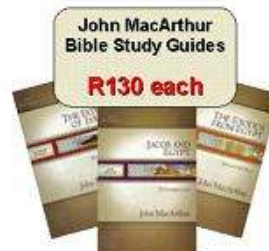


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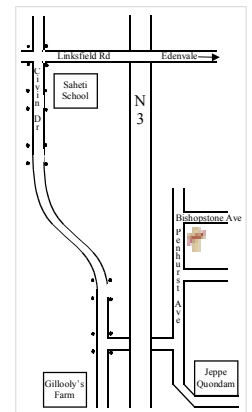
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Directions: From the N3, take the Linksfield Rd off ramp. Turn right up hill. Stay in left lane. Turn left into Civin Dr. At 4th set of lights, turn left under bridge. At t-junction turn left. Through the boom. We are ± 200m on the right hand side. Entrance is in Penhurst Ave.



BIBLE BASICS

Leviticus

The Book of Holiness

This is the third of the five Old Testament books ascribed to Moses. It contains God's instructions, given at Sinai, for worship by His people.

Date: Like Exodus, Leviticus would also have been written sometime during the exodus itself, around 1440-1400 BC.

Theme: The book of Leviticus focuses on worship and how the nation of Israel was to live as a nation different to all the other nations around them.

This main theme can be divided into three sub-themes:

1. **Holiness:** The word holy appears eighty-seven times in Leviticus and it helps us to realise that worship is far more than ritual. It is an essential component of our worship of God.
2. **Sacrifice:** If we include the synonyms, this word is used approximately three hundred times in this book of only twenty-seven chapters.
3. **Atonement:** This word appears forty-nine times, and it is in understanding this sub-theme that we come to a fuller understanding of Christ's work on the cross.

Basic Outline:

The outline of Leviticus emphasises the themes mentioned above. There are two groups of people that are addressed alternately throughout the book; the people and the priests. This is seen in the outline below:

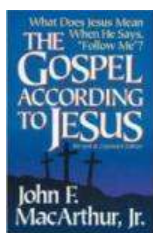
- Chapters 1-10 Offerings
Offerings to be made (1-6)
Instructions to the priests (6-10)
- Chapters 11-15 Ritual Cleanliness
Various Regulations (11-12)
Instructions for the priests (13-14)
Additional regulations (15)
- Chapters 16-17 The Day of Atonement
Instructions for the priests (16)
Instructions for the people (17)
- Chapters 18-22 Holiness
Instructions for the people (18-20)
Instructions for the priests (21-22)
- Chapters 23-25 Worship Calendar
- Chapters 26-27 Additional Instructions

Purpose: The book of Leviticus serves to teach two essential truths: entering into a right relationship with God based on forgiveness, and the maintaining of that fellowship by living according to God's regulations.

Conclusion: Leviticus is the most challenging of all the Old Testament books for Christians to apply. This is due to the old sacrificial system falling away due to Christ's work on the cross. Despite that, there are many principles in Leviticus that can be rightly applied to modern living. †



PRODUCT REVIEW



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JESUS

by John F. MacArthur Jr.



In this book, John MacArthur attempts to take on the concept that people can make allegedly sincere professions of faith in Christ and then be considered a Christian even if their life bears no good fruit after their supposed conversion.

He begins his argument by showing that good works are not a precondition of salvation, thereby affirming the historic Protestant position of salvation by faith alone, through grace, in Jesus Christ.

Having affirmed this position, MacArthur goes into fabulous Biblical detail concerning the fruits by which genuine salvation can be measured.

Throughout the book MacArthur shows how easy believism has permeated the modern church. He points out that it is highly dubious to offer salvation that basically states that as long as we make some kind of supposedly sincere affirmation of Jesus, we can then claim we are saved while continuing to live an unsaved life.

Even though this book first appeared on the shelves in 1988, it is still extremely relevant today. It is well documented Biblically, and if it were up to me, this book would be required reading for every pastor.

Recommended Retail: R180

Our price: ~~R160~~ R120

Stocks Limited

Some other John MacArthur titles currently available in store:

- The NASB MacArthur Study Bible - R360
- Twelve Ordinary Men - R110
- A Tale of Two Sons - R140
- Our Sufficiency in Christ - R130
- Fool's Gold - R120
- Divine Design - R110
- Saved Without a Doubt - R110
- Why Believe the Bible - R90
- Battle for the Beginning - R140

Go Track
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CONFERENCE CMC 2009

Get into Gear for This New Year

Saturday 21 March 2009
Bryanston Methodist Church,
Grosvenor Road
Booking Essential
Cost R150 per person
R130 if booked and paid before 1 March

Sunday 22 March 2009: Pretoria
2-5 pm with Jeff and Steven only R50

Who should attend:

- New and experienced teachers
- Teachers who are BORED!
- Children's ministry workers and helpers
- Children's Pastors
- People involved with cross cultural ministry

Subjects

Fun ideas for Memory verses;
Story Telling; Dramas; Outreach ideas;
Getting parents involved; Make Your Own Visual Aids; Active Participation;
Team Building; Creative Games; Reaching Schools in Your Area etc., etc.

Resources on Sale

World Class Speakers:
After 7 years Jeff Smith is coming again. Dowel Rods, Sign Language & great ideas. Award winning storyteller - Steven James from the USA & wonderful teachers from churches leading Children's Ministry in South Africa.

Children's Festival All Welcome **Very cool!**

Friday 20 March 7-8:30pm

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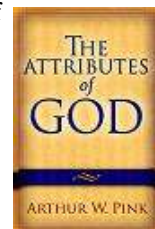
Top 25 Must Reads

The Attributes of God by Arthur W. Pink

The timeless appeal of this classic book, written by a preacher during the first half of the twentieth century, demonstrates the deep hunger for a saving knowledge of God present in each generation. This book does not just give a theoretical knowledge of God, but points the reader towards a personal relationship of yielding to Him and living according to His Biblical precepts.

It explores attributes such as God's decrees, foreknowledge, sovereignty, holiness, grace, and mercy, among many others, all packaged in a style especially useful for pastors, teachers and Bible students.

Although written almost 200 years ago, this book is very appropriate for today's generation who are seeking God in places other than in His inspired Word.



R 110

GOD'S REVELATION

There are a number of places in Exodus where God revealed Himself to Moses in one way or another, but none are more significant than those on Mount Sinai (Exodus 19-20 and 34). In the first incident, God descended as fire and handed Moses the terms of a covenant that would distinguish the people of Israel from other nations. This event is referred to by the rabbis as the divine revelation.

This event was followed by Israel's worship of the golden calf, thereby breaking the covenant (symbolised in the shattering of the stone tablets at the foot of the mount).

Moses was then again called up the mountain and on this occasion received a revelation of God quite different from the first.

Show me Your Glory

In Exodus 33:18 we see that Moses wanted to see more about God than just His law, he wanted to see His glory.

Moses' desire was to see God's nature and character. He understood that the glory of God was not contained in His form or in the demonstrations of His power. For God could appear as readily in a burning bush (Exodus 3:4) as He could in a pillar of smoke (Exodus 13:21) or as a man (Genesis 18). As for His power, Pharaoh's magicians were allowed to emulate many of the wonders of God (Exodus 7).

Moses rather wanted to understand God's ways, His manner of dealing with His children. This is the principal difference between the revelation of Exodus 34 and the earlier revelation of Exodus 19 and 20.

The LORD passed by before him

In Exodus 34:5-7 we read: *"Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD. And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, 'The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.'"*

What an awesome experience, but it is not the experience that is the focal point here, but rather what God reveals about Himself to Moses.

His Name

The divine name of God, Yahweh (shown as "the LORD" in capital letters in most English Bibles) is related to the present continuous form of the Hebrew verb "to be". It reveals the infinite nature of the God who is, who was and who is to come. The eternal and invincible God. The "I am" without beginning or end.

This was no new idea, and is one that is confirmed throughout Scripture.

The compassionate God

What has been translated as compassion in

these verses is actually quite a weak translation and fails to convey the full meaning of the Hebrew word, *rachum*.

While a person may equally be described as compassionate, the Hebrew word is never used of anyone but God. It is related to the word *rechem*, meaning womb. It is here, within a mother, that a child that has been conceived is protected and nurtured in anticipation of birth.

In this sense, *rachum* is closer in meaning to the English word cherish, that Webster defined as *"to treat in a manner to encourage growth, by protection, aid, attendance, or supplying nourishment"*.

God is revealing His care of His children from the very beginning of our faith. He does not leave anything to chance, but holds us as it were within Himself. Or as the psalmist describes, as the apple of His eye (Psalm 17:8).

The gracious God

The Hebrew word for "gracious" here, *channun*, is derived from a root word that means *"to bend or stoop in kindness to an inferior; to favour, bestow"* (see Strong's Concordance).

The image is that of God coming down to man, instead of what most religions teach as man's ascent to God. It is seen not only in this passage in the words, *"...the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him"* (v5), but also in Jesus, *"Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness"* (Philippians 2:6-7).

God's compassion for His children as expressed in *rachum* is complimented by *chanun* - His reaching down, coming into His creation to meet with us at our level.

Slow in Anger

Human nature is prone to be erratic, quick to judge and reject. Those who say or do things we do not like are ignored and treated as outcasts. But This is not in accordance with God's nature.

In the Hebrew this phrase has the understanding of God having long-enduring patience, not expecting instant results, but bearing with human frailty and fallibility. God is *"the author and perfecter of our faith"* (Hebrews 12:2), who makes all things beautiful in His time (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

And *"He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance"* (2 Peter 3:9).

Abounding in Love

The love that is seen here is one that is richly abundant. God is not frugal with love, keeping a reserve for later. Instead He gives and gives again, and is prepared to give it again at the thousandth time after it has already been given nine hundred and ninety-nine times before.

Abounding in Faithfulness

Faithfulness is that quality of God that shows He is not willing to deviate from who He is.

As Paul tells us; *"...if we are faithless, He will remain faithful, for He cannot disown Himself"* (2 Tim 2:15).

Loving and Forgiving, Yet Just

In order for us to remain in a loving relationship with God, our offences against Him have to be removed. At the same time God will not depart from His justice and must mete out punishment for sin.

The Hebrew verb translated in most English Bibles as "forgive", *nasa*, is more literally translated as uplift, take on, or bear. Jesus did not only forgive our sins, he bore them on Himself.

The transfer of the sins of the fathers upon the children and the children's children is not to be seen as unjust or vindictive,

but rather as a provision for repentance. Without it God would have punished the sin of every generation upon itself. It allows the following generations to repent and to once again restore the relationship with the Father.

However, this provision was completely fulfilled by God Himself, who became flesh and dwelt among us. By becoming a Son of Man, and a descendent of Israel, He took upon Himself all the sins of generations of mankind from the beginning of time, until the very end. Yet He did this without compromising His justice and holiness.

Conclusion

From the burning bush, right through to his death on Mount Nebo, Moses had many experiences of God through signs and wonders. But it is through this revelation in Exodus 33-34 that Moses truly learns the very nature of God.

It is possible for any human being to see "god" in signs, wonders and supernatural manifestations, but only the spiritual man recognises Him by His character.

God's true glory lies in His nature, not in His might. On what is your relationship with God based? Are you seeking to know Him through His revealed character in His Word, or is it through signs and wonders only? †

"God's true glory lies in His nature"

Moses wanted to see God's glory!

Coming Soon

Marvellous Light DVD

by Louie Giglio

Bewildered and confused, they saw, but they did not understand. After all, they were there when He was killed. They watched as the body was carried away to the tomb. With their leader dead and buried, all hope was lost.

Then, on the third day, a light came out of the darkness, ushering in the risen Saviour and bringing life and light to the world.



R 60

THAT'S IN THE BIBLE?

How well do you know the Good Book?

- In revealing Himself to Moses and the Israelites, God said His name was?
 - Father
 - Yahweh
 - Jealous
 - The All-merciful
- Who buried Moses?
 - Aaron
 - God
 - Joshua
 - The Elders
- Which of these was not one of the ten plagues God sent over Egypt?
 - Locusts
 - Frogs
 - Ants
 - Flies
- As they crossed the wilderness, God provided the Israelites with what to eat?
 - Grasshoppers
 - Bread
 - Fruit
 - Manna
- The Ten Commandments were chiseled on stone tablets by:
 - Bolts of Lightning
 - Angels
 - The Finger of God
 - Moses
- God commanded the Israelites to establish three feasts to celebrate annually. Which is not one of those days?
 - Passover
 - Pentecost
 - Feast of Tabernacles
 - Hanukkah
- On the Sabbath the Israelites were only allowed to eat what bread:
 - Kitka
 - Bagels
 - Unleavened bread
 - Freshly baked bread
- The first day of the week following Passover is known as the Day of:
 - Unleavened bread
 - Firstfruits
 - Celebration
 - Jubilee

Answers in the Next Edition

3. Keturah & Sarah (Gen 11:29 & 25:1) 4. Judah (Gen 37:26-27) 5. Keturah & Sarah (Gen 11:29 & 25:1) 6. Bethel (Gen 28:19) 7. Benjamin (Gen 44:2) 8. Goshen (Gen 45:10)

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

Find the following words in the above grid.

Aaron	Atonement	Blood	Caleb	Calf	Canaan
Exodus	Glory	Gold	Lamb	Law	Manna
Moses	Mountain	Nebo	Nile	Papyrus	Patient
Pharaoh	Sacrifice	Sinai	Tabernacle	Wilderness	Yahwah



DIARY OF EVENTS

Ester Konferensie 2009

13-15 Maart 2009
NG Moreletapark, Pretoria

Parachute Band

14 March 2009, 18h30 for 19h00
Eastside Church, Edenvale.
Entrance FREE.

Daniel 2009 Mannekonferensie

20-21 Maart 2009
NG Moreletapark, Pretoria

Beauty for Ashes Women's Conference

22-24 May 2009
Rivers Church, Sandton

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I will praise God's name in song and
glorify him with thanksgiving.

Psalm 69:30