



The G.E.M.

Volume 3 Edition 4

The Grace Electronic Magazine

April 2009

REFLECT ON REDEMPTION

Easter is a special time of the year. It is when we remember the redemptive work of Christ's death on the cross. Therefore this month in *The G.E.M.* we will reflect on redemption as a whole instead of the traditional aspects of Easter. Our main article on page three traces that redemptive plan in the three of the first five books of the Old Testament.

We continue our journey through the books of the Bible with the book of Numbers in our Bible Basics on page 2.

Following on from that, our *That's in the Bible* quiz on page 4 is a little tricky this month, however, if you read the book of Numbers, you will find all of the answers. We also feature two new DVD products on page 3. We hope you enjoy this month's edition.

Please note that even though the 22nd of April is a public holiday due to the elections, we will be open from 9am to 2pm should you be needing anything. Why not pay us a visit before you hit the queues and select a good book to read, some music to listen to, or how about some Gospel tracts to witness to those you are queueing with.

Be sure to keep on checking our website at www.gracemedia.co.za for updates on any events, product information, news, or any other items that may be interested in.


Until next time, have a blessed Easter and travel safe if you are going away.

God bless,
Glyn and Linda. †



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EASTER 2009

Resurrection Eggs R 120



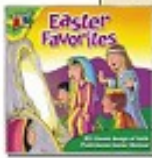
50 Reasons Why Jesus had to Die R120




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The Story of Little Tree CD R40




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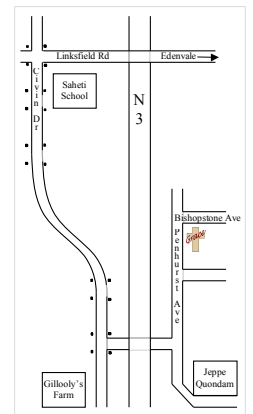


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Directions: From the N3, take the Linksfield Rd off ramp. Turn right up hill. Stay in left lane. Turn left into Civin Dr. At 4th set of lights, turn left under bridge. At t-junction turn left. Through the boom. We are ± 200m on the right hand side.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



BIBLE BASICS

Numbers

The Wilderness Years

This is the fourth of the five Old Testament books ascribed to Moses. The English title is taken from the census chapters (1 and 26). The Hebrew title, *Be-midbar*, means "In the Wilderness".

Date: As with Exodus and Leviticus, Numbers would also have been written during the exodus (1440-1400BC).

Content: The content of the book of Numbers is of the thirty-eight years Israel spent wandering in the wilderness, beginning with the preparations to leave Mount Sinai, to the arrival at the plains outside of Canaan.

Basic Outline:

Numbers is organised in a rather loose chronological order, however there are a number of portions inserted by the author that relate to the subject, even though they do not occur at the same time. It is therefore not possible to develop a strict sequence of events from the book. Only isolated and significant events are included. Chapters 1-9 At Mount Sinai

Organising the people (1-4)

Worship by the people (5-9)

Chapters 10-19 The Lost Generation

The Journey (10-12)

Israel's Disobedience (13-14)

Years of Wandering (15-19)

Chapters 20-36 Preparations for Entering Canaan

Warfare (20-21)

Balaam (22-25)

The New Generation (26-31)

Victory Begins (32-36)

Value: Even though at times reading the book of Numbers can be tedious, especially the census chapters (1 and 26), there is much historical value to the book.

Numbers gives us a picture of the impact that Mosaic Law had on the nation, and the dramatic changes it introduces in how God deals with His people.

What is also important is record of how Israel responded to the law and to how God disciplined the nation. Throughout the book, we are shown the importance of obedience and the tragedy that follows disobedience.

There are a number of references to the book of Numbers in the Old Testament which demonstrate the importance of obeying the Lord.

Conclusion: God's plan for the children of Israel was that they would go straight into Canaan from Egypt, but they rebelled and had to be punished. All those over twenty, except Joshua and Caleb, had to die. A new generation arose during the wanderings, but at the end of it, the nation of Israel was as strong in numbers as the day they had left the land of Egypt, and stronger in might and operating in the power of God. †

PRODUCT REVIEWS

THE GENIUS CLUB



Seven geniuses, with IQs over two hundred, are plucked from their lives on Christmas Eve to try and solve some of the world's problems in one night. They engage in a cat and mouse battle of wits with a mad genius who wants to detonate a nuclear bomb just blocks away from the White House. The password to the bomb is ... 3 words.

Will their high IQs be enough to find answers to hunger, war, terrorism, cancer, even redemption, in time?

This is an intellectual film, that is not really for entertainment. In its attempts to present answers to many of the problems in the world today, it also discusses the subjects of proving the existence of God, forgiveness, moral conscience and redemption.

The film presents a very basic Gospel message, and even goes so far to discuss the famous "Trilemma": Jesus was either a liar, a lunatic, or was telling the truth.

The producers are to be commended for having most of Romans 1 read in the script, something which has not been done in any other movie that I know of.

As this is an intellectual movie, the plot develops and comes to a conclusion slower than most thrillers. With that said, *The Genius Club* is quite an intelligent film. Many of the comments made concerning the issues discussed are thought provoking and will have you agreeing with the actors on a number of occasions. It will most certainly prompt discussion between yourself and other viewers.

Produced by the same people who brought you the *Left Behind* movies, and stars Stephen Baldwin, Tom Sizemore and Jack Scalia as the president.

View this movie with believers and non-believers alike, and allow it to be a conversation starter as you enter dialogue with them on the issues presented in the film.

Our Price: R180

FRIENDS & HEROES



The *Friends and Heroes* series traces the tale of two friends (Macky and Portia) whose adventures lead them across the ancient world as they fight for justice and even survival against the might of the Roman Empire.

In episode one we are introduced to the bustling marketplace of Alexandria and meet Samuel and Macky. Soon they encounter two young refugee girls who have stowed away aboard a ship from Galilee and are being pursued by Roman soldiers. Macky and his family risk their safety and defy the Romans by taking the sisters into their home.

Samuel later goes on to tell the story of Daniel in the Lions' Den to encourage the family not to be afraid, and Macky learns that violence is not the answer. When the girls are captured, Macky reminds everyone how Jesus demonstrated his power with a Miraculous Catch of Fish before calling his followers to leave everything and follow Him.

The adventures, locations and characters of the first century are historically accurate. At a time when the stories of Jesus were circulating in the oral record, the teenage heroes hear the stories in the real-world context when they need help or inspiration.

All the stories from both the Old and New Testaments are presented in such a way as to make their meaning clear and their application obvious.

Created by an international award-winning team of producers, designers, script writers, and music composers, *Friends and Heroes* mixes 2-D and 3-D animation to create sensational Bible stories, riveting first century adventures, and promising lifelong lessons.

Recommended for ages 6 and up.

2 episodes per disc, running time approximately 25 minutes each.

Our Price: R140

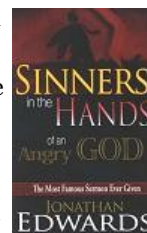
Top 25 Must Reads

Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God by Jonathan Edwards

Jonathan Edwards presents a clear picture of the predicament of every sinner and lukewarm Christian. Through his words, you can discover much about what it means to follow God.

He shows how you can: Know you have God's favour, Avoid the tricks of the devil, Understand more about what sin really is, Avoid the destruction that awaits sinners, Realise the need for immediate action, Be an intercessor, and Find your reward in Heaven.

With compelling words and imagery, Edwards describes the shaky position of those who do not follow Christ and God's urgent call to receive love and forgiveness today.



R 40

GOD'S REDEMPTION PLAN

In reading the first five books of the Bible it is so easy to miss God's plan of redemption for mankind. We tend to become bogged down with all the historical drama, laws and genealogies that we miss the redemptive message behind the narratives. In this article I would like to shed some light on redemption from Exodus to Numbers.

Helplessness (Exodus 1-4)

As the book of Exodus opens we read of the nation of Israel being enslaved in Egypt. Life is dark and gloomy and the people have lost sight of the God of their forefathers. Pagan worship is surrounding them, murder, hunger, and the mistreatment of the slaves is rampant. The nation can not save itself, it needs a saviour.

This is a picture of all mankind throughout history. Man is surrounded by all the things that are not of God and there is nothing that he can do to save himself. He needs a saviour (cf. Ephesians 2:8-9).

Yahweh (Exodus 5-11)

After being prepared in the wilderness we read of Moses being called by God to bring the nation of Israel out of Egypt and to lead them to the land promised to them through Abraham. Moses is a simple man who feels insignificant and poor of speech for such a task. But God reveals Himself and works through Moses to speak to Pharaoh and pronounce Judgement on Egypt.

So too with all mankind, God has revealed Himself to us through simple folk like you and me. He has used the words of those who seem foolish to shame the wise. God has taken the initiative and acted to redeem man from his bondage (cf. John 3:16-17).

Passover (Exodus 12-15)

The final nail in the coffin for Pharaoh is the death of his first born through the event that became known as Passover. The blood of the lambs sacrificed by the Hebrews sprinkled on the doorposts saves them from this judgement and the nation of Israel is released. What no other plague or sign or wonder could do, death of an innocent lamb fulfilled.

In the same way, no sign, wonder or magic prayer is going to save mankind from the judgement of the wicked. It is only through death and the shedding of blood that man can be saved. The innocent lamb sacrificed for the Hebrews is a picture for us of the innocent lamb of God, Jesus, who was sacrificed for us to save us from the judgement (cf. Hebrews 9:22; 10:10).

Rebellion (Exodus 15-19)

Freed from slavery, the nation makes its way to Sinai. During this journey and while at the foot of the mountain, they take their eyes off God and begin to rebel. The nation has forgotten how to be holy. The first love and joy of their release has been lost.

When we begin our journey we are so full of love and joy to be out of the sin we were in,

but then begin to lose focus and take our eyes off God. We begin to rebel a little here, then a little there. We forget that we are meant to be godly people and to shine as lights to the dark world (cf. Ephesians 1:4; 5:1-20).

Law (Exodus 20-24)

God then gives the Ten Commandments and the Law to the nation. These were not meant to serve as hindrances in their lives, but rather to keep them safe from judgement and to set them apart as a holy nation unto God. Serving as a mirror to show the true state of man's heart.

Though we do not like to admit it, we too need the law. It shows us where we are missing the mark and brings us back to the foot of the cross and back to Christ. It allows us to correct our actions towards God and man so that we too can live as a holy nation (cf. Romans 7).

Tabernacle (Exodus 25-40)

We see through the construction of the Tabernacle that God wanted to be in relationship with the nation of Israel. He wanted to dwell with them, however, it was to be according to His standards. No sin would be allowed, so He made a way for sins to be forgiven. Through an intricate system of sacrifices, God dwells with man in the tabernacle.

The great thing about the cross is that the whole system of sacrifices has been fulfilled. Instead of looking forward to forgiveness like the Hebrews did, we can look back to the work that has already been completed. Our sins are forgiven and we are able to be in relationship with God once again (cf. Hebrews 7:25-27).

Sacrifice (Leviticus 1-10)

Although God had made a way for man to dwell with Him through the tabernacle, life as God's chosen nation was not without its sacrifices. God commanded the nation to present certain sacrifices at certain times for certain purposes. Worship involved sacrifices.

Today we may not be making physical sacrifices of animals and birds, but our lives are still to contain sacrifice. We are to daily take up our cross and follow Him. Sacrificing those desires that keep us away from God and out of worship. Daily repentance and coming to God with a contrite heart is what God desires from us (cf. Matthew 16:24-26).

Holiness (Leviticus 11-22)

The ritual cleansing and other instructions of atonement and morals were instituted by God to show that the nation of Israel was a special nation dedicated to God. Worship was not something to be taken lightly and had to be done with each person being in union with his neighbour.

As Christians we are set apart to worship Him. We need to cleanse ourselves of those things that stand in conflict to the things of God. To be separate from the world in the

things we do and say, so that we do not seem to be merely some sort of Christianised version of what we were before (cf. 1 Peter 2:9-12).

Worship (Leviticus 23-27)

God then instituted the worship calendar for the nation. Giving them special days and celebrations to follow.

Though we may not have specific dates in which to have certain celebrations, we are commanded to share the Lord's Supper on a regular basis. We are to still gather together to worship and celebrate what God has done for mankind through Jesus' death on the cross (cf. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

Order (Numbers 1-9)

Before breaking camp at Sinai, the nation is organised into proper camps according to their tribes. It is in this order that the nation will move and camp through their forty years of wandering in the wilderness.

As we go through life, we too are to go about it in an organised manner. God is not a God of chaos, but of order. The community of faith is to be organised and how we live, worship, work and fellowship is to resemble that (cf. 1 Corinthians 14:40).

Disobedience (Numbers 10-20)

But then the nation refused to enter the land of promise. They failed to trust God and take Him at his word. The result was punishment and forty years of struggle, exhaustion and eventually death for those who did not believe.

Throughout our lives we too will question God and fail to take Him at His word. We will second guess the things He has told us in His Word. Should we do that, we need to remember that there are consequences (cf. Ephesians 5:6; Hebrews 10:31).

Obedience (Numbers 21-36)

Finally, the generation that followed was allowed into the promised land. A generation that had walked with its parents for up to forty years. There perseverance and patience brought them blessing as they entered the land of milk and honey.

For us too, the reward at the end of our journey is filled with promise and milk and honey. The journey may be difficult, but the benefits will be far better than we could ever expect (cf. Hebrews 10:32-39). †

we are set
apart to
worship Him!

God has taken
the initiative
and acted!

Inspirational DVD

Marvellous Light

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?

- Who was the leader of the tribe of Menasseh at the time of the second-year census?
 - Ahira
 - Gamaliel
 - Pagiel
 - Achiezer
- Which tribe and its escorting tribes travelled last when Israel began each journey?
 - Reuben
 - Judah
 - Menashe
 - Dan
- What was the age God commended Aaron to count in the census of the Jews?
 - 40 years
 - 1 month
 - 50 years
 - 20 years
- Which clan of the Levites were responsible for the table?
 - Kohanim
 - Merari
 - Kohathite
 - Gershon
- Which sons of Aaron died in Aaron's lifetime?
 - Nadab & Ithamar
 - Nadab & Abihu
 - Abihu & Eleazar
 - Eleazar & Ithamar
- On which side of the tabernacle did the clan of the Kohathites camp?
 - Southern
 - Northern
 - Eastern
 - Western
- How many male members age one month and up were counted in the census of the tribe of Levi?
 - 22,000
 - 40,000
 - 2,000
 - 10,000
- Which other tribes camped with Reuben on the southern side of the camp?
 - Dan & Gad
 - Simeon & Gad
 - Naphtali & Asher
 - Judah & Benjamin

Answers in the Next Edition

Last Month's Answers: 1. Yehweh (Ex. 3) 2. God (Deu. 34:5-6) 3. Ants (Ex. 7-11) 4. Manna (Ex. 16:31) 5. The Finger of God (Ex. 31:18) 6. Hanukkah (Ex. 12-23) 7. Unleavened Bread 8. Firstfruits (Lev. 23:9-14)

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N A H S H O N G W Y O N R O A J R G E P V J G R F L P C

Find the following words in the above grid.

Abidan	Ahiezer	Ahira	Asher	Benjamin	Dan
Eliab	Eliasaph	Elishama	Elizur	Gad	Gamaliel
Issachar	Joseph	Judah	Levi	Nahshon	Naphtali
Nethanel	Pagiel	Reuben	Shelumiel	Simeon	Zebulun



DIARY OF EVENTS

Haste the Day SA tour

8-16 May 2009.
Various venues across the country.

Five Love Languages Video Seminar

9 May 2009.
Family Life, Pretoria.

Beauty for Ashes Women's Conference

22-24 May 2009.
Rivers Church, Sandton.

Preparing the Church for 2010 Conference

22-25 June 2009.
NG Moreletapark, Pretoria.

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And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

2 Corinthians 5:15