



# The G.E.M.

Volume 3 Edition 9

The Grace Electronic Magazine

September 2009

## REFLECT ON GOD'S GLORY

Spring is in the air. It is great to look out the window once again and see all the colours of spring blooming before our eyes. The sunny days of summer are coming closer.

As you can see over the next two weeks we are having our annual birthday sale. With great specials and prizes to be won, be sure to visit us today and not miss out.

As usual we have our main article on page 3. This month we answer the age-old question, What is Man? Check out our great product reviews on page 2. And do not forget to take some time out with the fun back page.

Please note that the store will be closed on Saturday 12 September due to us attending a youth conference in Pretoria.

Also, in advance, the store will be closed on Saturday 3 October as we will be holding a stall at the Thornhill Manor Retirement Village annual fun day. Be sure to diarise this date and support this worthy establishment.

Thank you to those who have purchased some of our clearance items already. There are many more items left to choose from, so don't delay. Download the list today from our website at [www.gracemedia.co.za](http://www.gracemedia.co.za).

Until next time,

Grace and Peace,  
Glyn and Linda. †

## COMING SOON

### 2010 Diaries & Calendars

Arriving end September  
Order Today

Small 24-month Daily Planners	<b>R15</b>
Daily Planners for Women Hardcover	<b>From R110</b>
John C. Maxwell Daily Planner Hardcover	<b>R130</b>
Assorted 2010 Calendars	<b>From R20</b>



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# BIRTHDAY SALE

# LESS 10% off all purchases

(Excluding already reduced and Second-hand items)



# WIN! Prizes to the value of R1400

VALID UNTIL 19 SEPTEMBER 2009 (For all purchases in-store over R200)

## SHOP TRADING HOURS:

**Monday – Friday:**

9am – 5pm

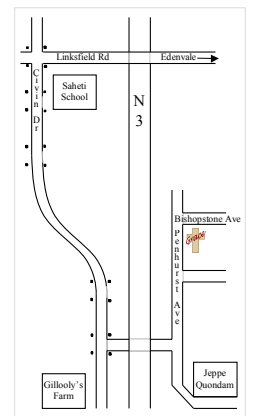
**Saturday:**

9am – 2pm

Closed Sundays and  
some Public Holidays

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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 the stop street at the road works, 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.



To advertise your church, ministry, business, event or product in *The G.E.M.* or on the Grace Media website, contact Glyn Williams on 011-454-6045 or [webmaster@gracemedia.co.za](mailto:webmaster@gracemedia.co.za)

## BIBLE BASICS

### 1 Samuel

#### *The Beginning of the Monarchy*

The book of 1 Samuel is the account of the lives of two important men in the Old Testament; Samuel and Saul and records the transition of Israel being ruled by God through the judges to His rule through the kings.

**Author:** Despite the title of the book, the author of the book of 1 Samuel is actually not known. It is from Hebrew tradition that the book bears Samuel's name.

**Date:** Due to the references to the city of Ziklag, which "has belonged to the kings of Judah to this day" (27:6), along with other references to Judah and Israel, we can be sure that 1 Samuel was written after the division of the nation in 931BC. As there is also no mention of the fall of Samaria that occurred in 722BC, it is safe to date it before then.

The Book of 1 Samuel covers a time-period of about 140 years, beginning with the birth of Samuel in about 1150BC, and ending with Saul's death in about 1010BC.

**Content:** Until this point, Israel had been governed by judges raised up by God at crucial times in the nation's history. Under the merciless onslaught of the Philistines, the nation had become both morally and politically corrupt. It is into this state of confusion that Samuel appears, the miraculous son of Hannah.

Unfortunately Samuel's own sons do not share his godly character and the people do not have confidence in their abilities. As Samuel grows old, they press him to give them a king, and reluctantly, he does so. Saul, is chosen by God to become Israel's first king. After rejecting God's commands, Saul is later rejected by God, after which he becomes consumed with jealousy and fear, gradually losing his sanity.

Saul's final years were spent relentlessly chasing David through the wilderness in an effort to kill him. Warned by Saul's son, Jonathan, David escapes. When both Saul and Jonathan are killed in battle, the stage is set for David to become the second king of Israel.

#### **Basic Outline:**

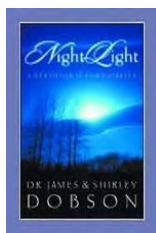
- Samuel's Early Life (1-3)
- Defeat at Aphek (4-6)
- Mizpah (7)
- Demand for a King (8)
- Saul Anointed (9-12)
- Saul Rejected (13-15)
- Saul and David (16-20)
- David a Fugitive (21-30)
- Saul's Death (28, 31)

**Value:** 1 Samuel is a key book for anyone wanting to understand the Old Testament. More importantly it is a book that illustrates great truths that span within both the Old and New Testaments. Through it we see God's faithfulness, the importance of trusting God, and the benefits of true commitment to Him. †

## PRODUCT REVIEWS

### NIGHT LIGHT

by Dr James & Shirley Dobson



One of the issues that many married couples tend to overlook is that of devotional time together. It has been said that a couple that prays together, stays together, and with the help of this book, you will certainly be able to do that.

Written by the founder of Focus on the Family, Dr James Dobson, and his wife Shirley, this book takes the couple on a six-month journey of covering deep marital issues such as trust, prayer, finances and the more intimate issues.

Each week follows a single topic, with each day's devotion covering an aspect of the overall theme. Designed to only take you ten to fifteen minutes a night, the Bible verse, devotional thought and questions can sometimes leave you discussing issues for hours after the book has been closed. Some of the issues covered in Night Light are more challenging than others, while some may seem to be less relevant to your life. However, things may change the second or third time you decide to work through the book.

Whether you have been married for fifty days or fifty years, this is a must have book for every Christian couple. It is an excellent gift for engagement, wedding, or just for those who need a little encouragement in their relationship. A book that will enrich any couple who dares to open its cover.

For couples who have children, *Night Light for Parents* is also available, covering those topics relevant to parenthood.

**Our Price: R 100**

#### **Other titles by Focus on the Family**

<i>Bringing up Boys</i>	R97
<i>Love for a Lifetime</i>	R130
<i>Night Light for Parent</i>	R100
<i>Preparing for Adolescence</i>	R100
<i>Give them Wings</i>	R41.50
<i>Drive Thru History DVDs</i>	R130
<i>Auto-B-Good DVDs</i>	R139

### THE WAY OF PEACE

Board Game



Are you looking for some family entertainment that does not include sitting in front of the TV? Then *The Way of Peace* board game is just for you.

The object of the game is to collect all the pieces of the armour of God and be the first to make it back to the center of the board.

With six different styles of questions; multiple choice, true or false, spelling, short answer, complete the verse, and in your opinion, the game is suitable for all levels of play. It is based on the King James Version of the Bible, and is suitable for the whole family from age 10 and up.

This is simply one of the best Christian trivia games on the market. With solid content and is loads of fun.

**WAS R380**

**NOW R 300**

#### **Other Recommended Games**

##### **Board Games**

<i>Kid's Ten Commandments</i>	R250
<i>Bible Charades</i>	R220
<i>Miracles and Pitfalls</i>	R300
<i>Mystery Museum</i>	R220

##### **Card Games**

<i>Amen</i>	R76.50
<i>Noah's Ark</i>	R64
<i>WWJD</i> (4 titles to choose from)	R51
<i>Friends &amp; Family</i>	<i>Money &amp; Stuff</i>
<i>School &amp; Work</i>	<i>Sports &amp; Fun</i>

[www.ChristianGames.co.za](http://www.ChristianGames.co.za)

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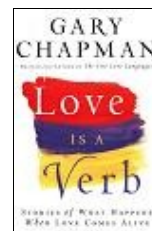
## NEW RELEASE

### *Love is a Verb* by Gary Chapman

Gary Chapman, bestselling author of *The Five Love Languages*, shares forty uplifting stories from everyday people like:

- Doris, who chose to love her husband when what she really wanted to do was run away,
- Loretta, whose family was mended by love in action,
- Faith, who learned how to love a mother who had become a stranger
- Laquita, who finally fell in love with her husband after forty years
- Jacquelyn, who found the courage to love someone who seemed truly unlovable

Because love isn't just a feeling. Love is a choice, and love is something we all need to do. Love is a Verb!



**R 130**

## WHAT IS MAN?

According to evolutionist Sir Julien Huxley, man is just a natural phenomenon that was not supernaturally created, but is a product of evolution. He also says that man has to rely on himself and his own powers. Ultimately he is saying that there is no God.

Is Huxley right? Are we just the product of evolution? An intelligent ape? A monkey in clothes? By faith we can say "no", but the question still remains: What is man? If we are not just intelligent apes, then what are we?

With the help of Scripture we can answer this question, as well as others that are closely related to it.

### Created in God's Image

Scripture tells us that we were created in the image of the Almighty God; *"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them"* (Genesis 1:27). Firstly we see that we are not merely products of evolution, we were created.

More importantly, we were created *"in the image of God"*. This is not a statement that refers to man's physical body being a copy of the Creator's, it is far more than that; man was created to be like God - in mind, character, occupation and interest.

The first man, Adam, is referred to in the Bible as *"the son of God"* (see Luke 3:38). In the same way that a human child shares similar characteristics with his/her parents, God created man to share similar characteristics with Himself! Though we may not look completely like God, we were created to be like Him in character.

This is indeed an honour and a privilege that no well-dressed monkey could ever enjoy.

### Why Was Man Created?

This then leads us to the question that deals with our purpose; "why am I here?" The answer is simply that man was created to glorify God. As Isaiah tells us, *"everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made"* (43:7).

Glory means giving honour, respect and praise that brings joy to the one being glorified. In other words, God created man for His glory, to bring Him pleasure, and with the express purpose that man would live a righteous life, and glorify Him to others.

Note Jesus' words in His prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane: *"I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word."* (John 17:4-6).

In Mark 2:12 and Luke 17:15 we read the accounts of people being healed who then went on to glorify God. They recognised the

true source of the healing power, God above, and they were not afraid to voice that fact. By glorifying God they were bringing Him pleasure.

### Give Credit Where Credit is Due

Most people, including many Christians, hesitate to give God the credit for what He has done and is still doing. Too often we are quick to accept the benefits, yet fail to publicly give Him thanks. Maybe it is something that makes one feel a little embarrassed or ashamed, or maybe it is simply our own pride. Whatever the case, it is a condition that every true believer should overcome.

It is important to remember that God does not seek our praise so that His ego may be boosted. He wants us to publicly voice our thanks and give praise to His holy Name in order that the unbelieving or doubtful may witness and hear about God's power, leading them to conversion.

Ultimately it is the salvation of souls that brings joy to God's heart. For as Jesus tells us, *"I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent"* (Luke 15:7).

This is something that is so dear to God's heart that He will do and use anyone and anything to bring a unbeliever to salvation. There are many instances of this recorded in Scripture, not only in the miracles of Jesus, but through the Exodus and the Old Testament prophets. None is more profound or unusual than when He used Balaam's donkey in Numbers 22.

For something that is of such importance, it is a sad indictment that we His followers neglect to give Him the praise and glory that is rightfully His. What a tragedy that we remain silent.

### Pride and Idolatry

Is it merely an oversight not to give God the glory? To remain silent as to what He has done, yet to boast in our accomplishments? It is actually a sin.

In the account of the writing on the wall in Daniel 5 we read of God's accusation against Balshazzar for doing that very thing; *"But you his son, O Belshazzar, have not humbled yourself, though you knew all this. Instead, you have set yourself up against the Lord of heaven. You had the goblets from his temple brought to you, and you and your nobles, your wives and your concubines drank wine from them. You praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or understand. But you did not honour the God who holds in his hand your life and all your ways"* (22-23).

To glorify ourselves for what God has done is pride, pure and simple. And to give the glory to someone or something else is idolatry. Many of us are guilty of these subtle sins sometime in our lives. We often take credit for what God has done for us, or

direct the praise in the wrong direction. This is something that we must put an end to, otherwise we will suffer as Belshazzar did the very night that Daniel brought this word to him - *"That very night Belshazzar, king of the Babylonians, was slain"* (Daniel 5:30)

### How Excellent is His Name!

*"Father glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again"* (John 12:28).

This statement, taken from the account where Jesus predicts His death just after the Triumphal Entry, is about far more than just making known the true name of God. It implies living in such a way that God's Name, including His character, reputation, law, actions etc., are not abused, defamed, or blasphemed. It means that we must live in such

a way that we will be saying: How excellent is His name! How mighty are His deeds! And how holy, merciful, loving and gracious are His dealings with man!

### So, What is Man?

Going back to our original question, what is man? We can clearly see from Scripture that man and our salvation is something that is near and dear to God's heart.

Man is the part of his creation that He gave the special honour of being like Him in character. As a result of that, man is therefore in the position, and required, to give that glory back to Him.

All He is and all He does is about His glory.

Therefore all we are, and all we do, is to give Him glory.

Endeavour to be like God, for He **created** you! †



**We were created to be like Him in character**

**Endeavour to be like God, for He created you!**

## INSPIRATIONAL DVD

### Top 25 Modern Praise and Worship

This DVD features 25 of the most popular modern worship songs set to breathtaking and inspiring video footage. Excellent for church, small group or home use.

Some of the songs featured:

*Here I am to Worship*  
*Above All*  
*Every Move I Make*  
*I Can Only Imagine*  
*Rock of Ages*  
*Breathe*  
*Lord Reign in Me*



**R135**  
**R 122**

# THE BACK PAGE

## THAT'S IN THE BIBLE?

### How well do you know the Good Book?

All answers are found in 1 Samuel.

Use the following 20 words to complete each of the verses below. Watch out for the three red herrings:

spoke	Israel	Jonathan	death
Abigail	Benjamite	rare	Saul
judge	alive	Samuel	forty
Abner	dreams	Philistine	Shiloh
Judah	Gilgal	thirty	visions

- The LORD brings \_\_\_ and makes \_\_\_; he brings down to the grave and raises up.
- "This is the man I \_\_\_ to you about; he will govern my people."
- \_\_\_ replied, "Who are you who calls to the king?"
- That same day a \_\_\_ ran from the battle line and went to \_\_\_.
- Saul remained at \_\_\_, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear.
- \_\_\_ quickly got on a donkey
- Then \_\_\_ called upon the LORD, and that same day the LORD sent thunder and rain.
- When David finished saying this, \_\_\_ asked, "Is that your voice, David my son?"
- In those days the word of the LORD was \_\_\_ there were not many \_\_\_.
- Samuel continued as \_\_\_ over Israel all the days of his life.
- For \_\_\_ days the \_\_\_ came forward every morning and evening
- "No one shall be put to death today, for this day the LORD has rescued \_\_\_."
- Saul was \_\_\_ years old when he became king, and he reigned over Israel forty-two years.

Answers in the Next Edition

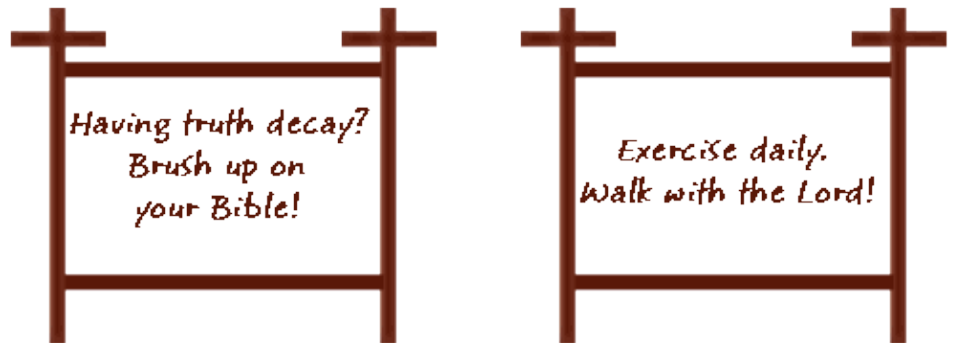
Last Month's Answers: 1. Elimelech (2:1) 2. Perle (3:3) 3. Bread, Vinegar (2:14) 4. Obed (4:16) 5. Famine (1:1) 6. Feet, Morning (3:16) 7. Living, Dead (2:20) 8. Shawl (3:5) 9. Moabites (1:19) 10. Bethlehem (1:19) 11. Orpah (1:14) 12. Mara, Bitter (1:20)

## SAMUEL – GOD'S FAITHFUL SERVANT

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

Find the following words in the above grid.

Abigail	Amalekites	David	Ebenezer	Elihu	Elkanah
En Gedi	Ephraim	Goliath	Hannah	Hophni	Jeroham
Jesse	Jonathan	Kenites	Phinehas	Ramah	Ramathaim
Samuel	Saul	Shiloh	Tohu	Ziklag	Zuphite



## DIARY OF EVENTS

### Dream a New Dream Women's Conference

18 & 19 September 2009.  
Rosebank Union Church, Johannesburg.

### Beauty for Ashes Women's Conference

11-12 September 2009.  
New Life Conference Centre, Bryanston.

### National Teacher's Convention

24-27 September 2009.  
Bloemfontein.

### Thornhill Manor Retirement Village Fun Day

3 October 2009, 10am-2pm.  
158 Westlake Drive, Lakeside Village, Modderfontein.

Visit our website for more info on these and other exciting Christian events.

*And the LORD told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king."*

1 Samuel 8:7