



# The G.E.M.

Volume 4 Edition 2

The Grace Electronic Magazine

February 2010

## REMEMBER TO SHARE

February is traditionally the month of love. With red and white displays all throughout the shops and delightful chocolate gifts. Whatever your outlook is on this time of year, what better way than to share love than to share it with the love of Christ.

That means not only sharing that love with our spouses, families and close friends, but also with those who do not know the love of Christ in their own lives and families. Other than laying our lives down for our friends, there is nothing more loving that we can do for the lost people of the world.

If you are needing any resources to help you to evangelise, and share God's love, do not hesitate to give us a call or to visit the store. We will gladly assist you and provide you with all that you need.

With the FIFA World Cup coming closer with each passing day, we are keeping evangelism our theme for the year. Our article on page 3 offers some insights on the need to evangelise, encouraging us to be contenders for the faith, and not merely pew warmers every Sunday.

Do not forget the usual *Bible Basics*, *Product Reviews* and *This Day in History* on Page 2 as well as the fun challenges on *The Back Page*.

Finally, be sure to visit us from **8 to 20 February** to receive **10% discount** on all **Bibles** in this month's Mid-Month Markdowns.

Until next time,  
Glyn and Linda. †

*"Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord"*  
(2 Peter 1:2)

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## SCORE MORE THIS VALENTINE'S

### Books to Encourage!



### Gifts to Delight!



IF WE DON'T HAVE IT, WE'LL FIND IT!

### Resources to Inspire!



Visit us today for more Couples titles!

E&OE, Prices valid while stocks last.

# Mid Month markdowns

## 8 - 20 February

## 10% OFF

## ALL BIBLES

(EXCLUDING ALREADY REDUCED AND SECOND-HAND TITLES)

## BIBLE BASICS

### Esther Salvation in Captivity

The book of Esther is set during the time that the Israelites were in captivity in Persia. Even though there were a number of Jews living in Judah at the time, most were still living outside of the Promised Land and prospering.

Esther tells the story of an orphaned Jewish girl, Hadassah/Esther, who lives with her uncle, Mordecai, an official in the Persian king's court. Through a series of incidents, Esther becomes queen and helps to avert a plot that would have completely wiped out the Jewish people.

**Author and Date:** It is not known what time during the history of Israel the book was written, nor as to who the author was.

What we do know is that the events took place between the third and twelfth years of Xerxes reign (±483-471BC), and also that it was probably written by someone who was still living in exile in Persia at the time.

**Basic Outline:** The basic outline of the book follows the story as it reads like a retelling of the events as they happened:

	Chapters
Queen Vashti Deposed	1
Esther Made Queen	2
Haman's Plot	3
Esther's Plan	4
Haman's Rage	5
Mordecai Honoured	6
Esther's Feats	7-8
Purim Celebrated	9-10

**God's Name:** One of the issues surrounding the book of Esther is that God's name is not mentioned anywhere. This has caused some concern over the years and has raised questions about whether the book should be included in the Bible or not.

Matthew Henry, the British Presbyterian Minister, author the famous Matthew Henry's Commentary (1662-1714) said of this book, "If the name of God is not here, His finger is." This is certainly true as throughout the events portrayed, things would not have worked out the way they did if God was not involved.

Through God's involvement in these events, we learn that no matter what confronts us, there is only one thing to do – do what is right and leave the rest to God. This was the faith shown by Esther.

**Did you know?** The events portrayed in the book of Esther occurred thirty years before the events in Nehemiah?

**Lesson:** The book of Esther is an important chain in the series of events for the re-establishment of the Hebrew nation. It is an important event in the preparation of the Messiah's coming. Through God's providence and care, the nation had been spared, and paved the way for the eventual release of the Israelites to return to the Promised Land decades later with Ezra and Nehemiah. †

## PRODUCT REVIEWS

### ONE NIGHT WITH THE KING DVD



One Night With the King tells the story of Hadassah/Esther (See Bible Basics).

The story is historically accurate, not only in terms of what we read of in the Biblical account, but also in terms of what has been discovered through archaeology and other non-Biblical writings, such as Herodotus.

The sets are large and vibrant, with many of the features particular to ancient Persia of the time being well represented.

The acting and post-production of the movie are very professional, making it stand out among some of the older style Christian movies that often seem amateurish.

This is a movie for men and women alike, young and old. Its story is full of intrigue, drama and romance. It is also a great movie to enjoy with non-believers, showing them on how the nation of Israel, by the hand of God, has been preserved throughout the millennia.

A definite DVD to include in your Christian movie collection.

**Our Price: R 170**



### SECOND CHANCES DVD



Based on a true story, Second Chances is the tale of a little girl's physical and emotional reawakening after a car crash claims her father, and her spirit. The accident leaves 10-year old Sunny Matthews unable to walk without crutches.

However, the damage to Sunny's leg pales in comparison to her emotional wounds, which cause her to withdraw from life and everyone around her.

Miraculously, things begin to change when Sunny and her mother Kathleen move next door to a horse ranch run by one-time rodeo star Ben Taylor. Sunny's recovery begins as she develops an affinity for Ben, and a love for a mean-spirited, crippled horse named Ginger.

Although the story itself is not one that revolves around a Christian story, or even has any direct references to Christianity, Second Chances portrays true Christian character. This is an inspiring and uplifting story suitable for the whole family, and shows us that everyone really does deserve a second chance.

**Our Price: R 140**

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

### 14 February Your Valentine

Legends have occasionally crept into Christian history. Stories of some of the early martyrs, for example, handed down orally, have sometimes become embellished and romanticized. Such is the story of St. Valentine.

Two Valentines are actually described in the early church, but they likely refer to the same man – a priest in Rome during the reign of Emperor Claudius II. According to tradition, Valentine, having been imprisoned and beaten, was beheaded on February 14, about 270, along the Flaminian Way.

Sound romantic to you? How then did his martyrdom become a day for lovers and flowers, candy and little poems reading Roses are red ... ? According to legends handed down, Valentine undercut an edict of Emperor Claudius. Wanting to more easily recruit soldiers for his army, Claudius had tried to weaken family ties by forbidding marriage. Valentine, ignoring the order, secretly married young couples in the underground church. These activities, when uncovered, led to his arrest.

Furthermore, Valentine had a romantic interest of his own. While in prison he became friends with the jailer's daughter, and being deprived of books he amused himself by cutting shapes in paper and writing notes to her. His last note arrived on the morning of his death and ended with the words "Your Valentine."

In 496 February 14 was named in his honour. By this time Christianity had long been legalized in the empire, and many pagan celebrations were being "christianised." One of them, a Roman festival named Lupercalia, was a celebration of love and fertility in which young men put names of girls in a box, drew them out, and celebrated lovemaking. This holiday was replaced by St. Valentine's Day with its more innocent customs of sending notes and sharing expressions of affection.

Does any real truth lie behind the stories of St. Valentine? Probably. He likely conducted underground weddings and sent notes to the jailer's daughter. He might have even signed them "Your Valentine." And he probably died for his faith in Christ.

But he almost certainly never wrote, "Roses are red, violets are blue. ..."

Quoted from: *On this Day: 365 Amazing and Inspiring Stories About Saints, Martyrs & Heroes* (electronic edition) by Robert J. Morgan. †

## COUPLES DEVOTIONAL

### The Love Dare by Stephen & Alex Kendrick

Rekindle the passion in your marriage this Valentines month with the best-selling devotional of all time, *The Love Dare*.

Based on the movie *Fireproof*, this 40-day challenge is helping husbands and wives around the world to understand and practice unconditional love.

Ook beskikbaar in Afrikaans



**R 130**

## BE A CONTENDER

*"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander."* – 1 Peter 3:15-16

I am sure you have heard people say, "I do not really know that much about apologetics or prophecy. That stuff tends to depress me." By their own admission, they are saying that prophecy and apologetics are not to their taste and are not necessary. However, nothing could be further from the truth.

### A New Social Theology

"Tolerance" or "unity" are the buzz-words of the twenty-first century. Not that there is anything wrong with those words, but regrettably they are being used to promote a social theology, instead of a Biblical one. In which the Bible is not taken at face value.

This new theology is both morally and spiritually relativistic, and assumes that all roads lead to Rome. Therefore John 14:6 is seen to be exclusivistic, as it declares that Jesus is the only way to Heaven.

Advocators of this theology often talk of how Jesus taught a message of love and acceptance. But that is only partly true. Jesus did indeed teach of love for other people, however He also spoke of a narrow way to salvation, and never taught that sin is to be tolerated.

The time has come to ask ourselves if we are truly committed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, or are we in favour of this new theology? Adherence to the Gospel will mean that we will not always be accepted by society. It means a move from our comfort zones to face a world that seems to promote tolerance for everything except Christianity. It also means that we are to equip ourselves to engage in battle with the principalities and powers of this dark world (Ephesians 6:12).

### Using Apologetics

Many Christians are nervous when it comes to apologetics, especially when one is dealing with other religions. Some feel as though it is judging or being critical of other faiths. However, these people are ignoring some essential points.

Jesus was constantly challenging the false prophets and the Pharisees of the day. He warned that there would be false prophets and false messiahs (see Matthew 7:15; 24:11,24). He taught that the only way to the Father was through Him (see John 3:16, 14:6). He taught of a narrow path that leads to salvation, and a broad path that leads to destruction (see Matthew 7:13-14). Paul too warned of false teachings (see 2 Corinthians 11:13-15; Galatians 1:7-8; 1 Timothy 1:3-4), and urged us to respond with the Truth (see 2 Timothy 4:2-5). Finally Jude told us to "contend for the faith" (Jude 3,4).

Later, Jesus commanded, "go and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:19). Currently, statistics show that only 15% of the world's population claim to be atheists or agnostics, therefore a huge majority of people in this world hold to some spiritual belief system. But Jesus is not only interested in that 15%, He is interested in all people.

In saying that He is the only way, Jesus was excluding all other ways. This is not a popular notion in today's pluralistic and ecumenical society, but truth is not based on popularity. People that are following systems of false belief are in danger. Jesus wants them to come to Him, and we are His instruments to fulfil that task.

However, as we go about this task, we are going to have to associate with people that have various religious beliefs. To be effective witnesses to them we have to understand their beliefs, and be prepared to present the true Gospel of Jesus Christ to them. But this also goes hand-in-hand with exposing lies and heresy as Paul instruct us in Ephesians 5:11. A call to actively expose the lies of the devil, and not to congregate and worship with them. Nor is it to have some form of holy huddle in our churches and ignore the lost.

As Christians, we are to be intimately familiar with the true Gospel of Jesus Christ, as presented in the Word of God. This will certainly not earn us any points in political correctness, but we have to decide what is more important – social acceptance, or fulfilment of the Great Commission.

We are to be fully equipped to give answers, while at the same time remembering that we are not to attack the person (1 Peter 3:15). Many feel it is more loving to "live and let live," but as Christians that is the least loving attitude we can have. Do we really want those that we love to be lost for eternity?

### Using Prophecy

Some people believe that prophecy is over-emphasized in the church today, when in fact the opposite is true. *The Left Behind*® series of books by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins was an enormous success. Each book in the series reached a top-10 spot on the New York Times best-seller list. Even secular bookshops cleared entire shelves to stock the series. Later, the movies and the game were released with relatively good success. This points to a high interest among both Christians and non-Christians alike in prophecy and the end times.

Traditionally unbelievers have been focused on astrology, horoscopes, fortune telling, etc. The secular world has always been fascinated by the amazing predictions of Nostradamus. However, one cannot deny that *The Left Behind*® series has managed to direct that interest towards the prophecies of the Bible, irrespective of your theological standpoint.

Nearly one-third of the Bible is prophecy, and if we are to hold that the Bible is God's

Word, then we cannot help but conclude that God wants us to know and study prophecy. For several reasons:

a) In the Old Testament, there are over one hundred prophecies about Jesus' coming. In the fulfilment of these prophecies, we recognise that Jesus is the Messiah, and not merely some deceiver with delusions of grandeur. Did you know that there are five times more prophecies concerning His second coming than His first? Since His first coming is an historical fact, we can be sure that He will return like He said He would.

b) The Bible is full of prophecies of events that will occur in the last days. While many generations have felt that they were living in the last days, one cannot argue that each generation is that much closer than the generation before. Knowing the "signs of the times" convinces one of the imminence of Christ's return.

c) Prophecy can have a huge effect on the unbeliever as well. Fulfilment of Biblical prophecy provides evidence of the divine inspiration of the Bible.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." Since nearly a third of Scripture is prophecy, it only stands to reason that we should not only accept prophecy, but also embrace it as an inspired and important part of God's Word to us.

### Making a Choice

We all have a choice to make. We can choose to study God's Word to equip ourselves to face a godless world, and earnestly contend for the faith; or we can forsake sound doctrine in favour of the new social theology.

If we choose the latter, we will not be fulfilling the Great Commission and instead allowing people to remain lost for eternity.

If we choose the former, we will be contenders, fighting the good fight and letting Christ shine through us to reach a world that is lost.

I leave you with Paul's words to his protégé in 2 Timothy 1:8, "So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God..."†

## PRACTICAL TOOL

### 2010 Evangelism Pack

Exclusive to Grace Media

2010 is here and opportunities to spread the Gospel are at hand like never before.

Grace Media introduces a great evangelism product to equip you in sharing your faith with the visitors to the FIFA World Cup.

The pack contains a Gospel of John complete with a tract, and a "souvenir" specially designed for 2010.



R 6

## We are His instruments

It means a move from our comfort zones

# THE BACK PAGE

## BIBLE SUDOKU CHALLENGE

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

Bible-Sudoku Challenge combines the logic skills to solve a normal Sudoku with Bible trivia.

Begin by answering the Bible trivia questions. Using the answers and placing them in the relevant coordinates, solve the grid on the right. The coordinates with each question indicates where in the grid that starter number is to be placed (e.g. A1, E9).

All answers are found in the book of Nehemiah.

- How many of the king's officers who guarded the doorway, became angry and conspired to assassinate King Xerxes?  
(D8, G7, B2)
- For how many days did Esther ask the Jews not to eat or drink?  
(E7, A4, H6, B9)
- In what chapter did Mordecai tear his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and wail loudly and bitterly?  
(D6, C4)
- How many eunuchs did Esther send to find out what was troubling Mordecai and why?  
(A8, D1, H9, C5)
- How many months of treatment with oil and myrrh did the girls have to complete before they could go in to King Xerxes?  
(G1, D3, F4, B5)
- In which chapter did Mordecai leave the king's presence wearing royal garments of blue and white?  
(H8, E5, A6, G2, C7)
- In the citadel of Susa, the Jews killed how many hundred men?  
(F6, D2, G9, E8, C1)
- How many eunuchs served Xerxes?  
(A5, I7, H1)
- In which verse of chapter 8 did the royal secretaries write out Mordecai's orders to the Jews?  
(E4, F1)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									

Answers in the Next Edition

**Last Month's Solution**

Trivia: 7 (8:18), 4 (6:5) 5 (3:13)  
2 (12:31) 8(2:8) 3 (2:11-12)  
6 (5:18) 1 (13:28) 9 (11:1)

Sudoku Grid

6	5	8	3	4	9	2	7	1
4	9	2	5	7	1	3	6	8
1	3	7	6	8	2	4	5	9
7	1	3	8	9	4	5	2	6
8	4	6	7	2	5	9	1	3
5	2	9	1	3	6	7	8	4
9	6	4	2	1	7	8	3	5
2	8	5	4	6	3	1	9	7
3	7	1	9	5	8	6	4	2

## AWESOME QUOTES

Who said the following? Answers at the bottom of the page.

**A**

*"Men who never heard the Gospel can see God in his works if they open their eyes. There is written upon the face of nature enough to condemn men if they do not turn to God. There is a gospel of the sea, and of the heavens, of the stars, and of the sun; and if men will not read it, they are guilty, for they are wilfully ignorant of what they might know, and ought to know."*

**B**

*"You have nothing to do but to save souls. Therefore spend and be spent in this work. And go not only to those that need you, but to those that need you most...It is not your business to preach so many times, and to take care of this or that society; but to save as many souls as you can; to bring as many sinners as you possibly can to repentance."*

**Clue:** They are both well-known contenders of the faith.

## SHOP TRADING HOURS:

**Monday – Friday:**

9am – 5pm

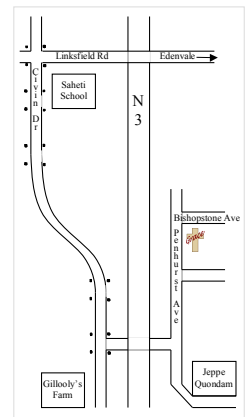
**Saturday:**

9am – 2pm

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**Directions:** From the N3, take the Linkfield 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.



Awesome Q Notes Answers B: John Wesley A: Charles Haddon Spurgeon

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Trust in him at all times, O people;  
pour out your hearts to him,  
for God is our refuge.

Psalm 62:8

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