



The G.E.M.

Volume 4 Edition 3

The Grace Electronic Magazine

March 2010

REMEMBER TO INVEST

March is the beginning of autumn, however, with the weather we have been having lately, it seems as though summer is starting all over again. Trees are still green, birds are singing, temperatures are warmer than mid-summer, and all looks good for the World Cup coming up in June. It is certainly turning out to be a good year.

This month in *The G.E.M.* we focus on children and the opportunity that we have to invest into their lives. Our main article on page 3 highlights the importance of doing just that, and presents a simple opportunity for you to become involved in a new children's outreach project that we have started.

The normal *Bible Basics* appears on page 2, as well as *This Day in History*. For Francine Rivers fans, be sure to check out the press release on page 2 of her new title due for release in May.

Along with the normal *Bible Sudoku Challenge* on the back page, we have included a new feature: *God's Library Cards*. For each book of the Bible, there will be a card that you can cut out, laminate and keep for future reference. This month we begin with the cover card and Genesis. Start collecting your *God's Library Cards* today.

Finally, we will be at the *Living & Loving Kids & Baby Expo* at Emperor's Palace from 25-28 March, stand #137. Come pay us a visit with the whole family, and enjoy a fantastic day of fun, entertainment, and lots of goodies to buy.

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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BIBLE BASICS

Job

The Book of Sorrow

Job is the first of the five “poetical” books of the Old Testament. Tradition tells us that it is the oldest book in the Bible, and was written before Moses wrote the first five books (Genesis – Deuteronomy).

In it, the oldest question in the world is asked: Why do the righteous suffer.

Concept of God: Compared to all the other books of the Old Testament, Job is distinctively non-Jewish in character. Despite that, the Jews have never dismissed its inclusion in the Jewish canon.

However, as a non-Jewish book, it plays an important role in understanding God. It shows us that there is an understanding about God that supercedes the revelations penned by Moses around 1400BC.

In studying Job, we see that even though man's knowledge about God was not yet complete, Job and his friends still had enough knowledge to have faith in Him and to live moral lives.

Basic Outline: The basic outline of the book follows Job's story as he and his friends ponder this age old question:

	Chapters
Prologue: Satan's Test	1:1-2:10
Job's Dialogue with friends	2:11-31:40
Elihu's Contribution	32:1-37:24
The Lord Speaks	38:1-41:34
Epilogue: Job restored	42

Lesson: The book of Job teaches us that God has a wise purpose in our suffering. Through it, He is showing us His complex and vast wisdom (cf. Ephesians 3:10), and developing patience within us. It also refines us like fire would gold, removing all of the dross from our lives.

It also shows us that God is gracious and that He can be approached through sacrifice. God will forgive those who come to Him in repentance. However, even though through what He has revealed to us, there are still things about God that remain unknown – a Mystery.

Like many today, Job was ready to question God. To ask Him why? Throughout the book, Job kept trying to contend with God, until at the very end, Job was so broken in spirit, that instead of seeing himself, he saw God. His words towards the end were “*I am unworthy*” and “*I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes*” (40:4 & 42:6).

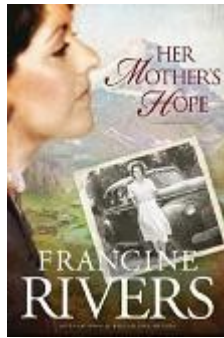
A Commentary: In effect, the book of Job is a practical commentary of some of the famous passages of the New Testament: Luke 22:31-32; Romans 8:28; 1 Corinthians 5:5 and 11:31-32; and Hebrews 12:7-11.

Did you know? The English poet, Lord Tennyson (1809-92), referred to the book of Job as “the greatest poem, whether of ancient or modern literature”.

Be sure to study the book of Job, learn about God and His love, and put your full trust in Him. †

COMING SOON

HER MOTHER'S HOPE **(MARTA'S LEGACY SERIES #1)** by Francine Rivers



From the beloved, best-selling author of *Redeeming Love* comes a powerful epic that spans continents and generations in an unforgettable story about family and faith, dreams and disappointments, and ultimately the resilience and tenacity of love.

Best-selling author Francine Rivers pens a sweeping and lyrical two-book saga that explores the depths of grace and forgiveness in one of life's fiercest bonds – the love between mother and daughter.

Near the turn of the twentieth century, fiery Marta Schneider is torn between her father's declaration that she'll never be more than a servant and her mother's encouragement to chase her dreams. Determined to fulfil her mother's hope, Marta leaves home for a better life.

Young and alone, she earns her way with a series of housekeeping and cooking jobs that bring her ever closer to her dream of owning an inn. Heartbreaking news from home strengthens Marta's resolve as she moves to England and eventually to Canada.

There, she meets handsome Niclas Waltert, a man just as committed as she to forging a better life in a new place. But nothing has prepared her for the sacrifices she must make for marriage and motherhood as she travels first to the Canadian wilderness and finally to the dusty Central Valley of California to raise her family. Marta's hope is to give her children a better life, but experience has taught her that only the strong survive. Her tough love is often misunderstood, especially by her oldest daughter, Hildemara Rose, who craves her mother's acceptance.

Amid the drama of World War II, Hildie falls in love and begins a family of her own. But unexpected and tragic events force mother and daughter to face their own shortcomings and the ever-widening chasm that threatens to separate them forever.

**Due for release in South Africa
in early May.**

Order your copy today!

Our Price: R 150

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

11 March

Art or Idols

If we aren't careful our traditions can become our idols, and rooting them out may be hazardous to the church's health. This was the case in Eastern Christianity's infamous iconoclast controversy.

During Medieval times, Christians began worshipping and praying to saints, a practice that gradually led to the prominence of icons—flat pictures representing Christ, Mary, or some other saint. While Christian art has edified believers since the days of the catacombs, the Eastern church began worshipping these images. The pictures were reverently kissed. Incense was offered before them. Prayers were rendered to them. Some icons reputedly possessed miracle-working powers.

The Byzantine emperor Leo III was repelled by the worship of icons, perhaps because his political enemies, the Jews and the Moslems, accused him of heading an empire of idolaters. In 726 he outlawed image worship and soon thereafter ordered the destruction of icons everywhere. But image worship had become so entrenched in the Byzantine church that his edicts were viewed as attacks on Christianity itself. An uprising raged through his empire, and many died. Pope Gregory in Rome ridiculed the emperor and held two synods condemning Leo's iconoclasm (icon-breaking).

Leo's son, Constantine V, continued his father's war against icons with vigour. He convened a church council in Constantinople, attended by 360 bishops. The council, citing the second commandment, denounced icons as idols and declared all religious paintings and sculpture as pagan. Their use in public and private worship was forbidden. The council's decree was carried out with intensity, and sacred images were smashed, destroyed, painted over, and burned. Fifty thousand icon-producing monks fled or perished. For the next 89 years, the icon controversy see-sawed back and forth, tearing the church, ripping its unity, and providing it with a new crop of dubious martyrs.

The persecution ended only after the death of Emperor Theophilus, the last great iconoclast, in 842. On March 11, 843 icons were formally sanctioned and reintroduced in all Eastern Orthodox churches. This day, the so-called “Triumph of Orthodoxy,” has been commemorated in Eastern congregations around the world for over 1,000 years.

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

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R 150

MAKE AN INVESTMENT

In the world of finance and business, we are often encouraged to make some kind of investment that will provide us with a roof over our head or financial freedom in the future.

However, there are other investments that need to be made that are far greater than a financial one. Investments that have benefits that are out of this world. Benefits that last for eternity and no recession can touch. Investments that will change the lives of others.

An Investment in a Life

In John 6 we read the remarkable story of Jesus feeding five thousand men with only five loaves and two small fish. Here is a quick summary of the story:

Shortly before Passover, Jesus and His disciples were in Galilee and had been followed by a large crowd of 5,000 men.

Jesus questioned Philip as to where they could buy food for them to test him. Philip said that it would be impossible to buy the amount of food needed. Andrew presented a boy to Jesus who had five loaves and two small fish.

Jesus then told them to have the crowd sit down in groups, took the loaves and fish, gave thanks for them, and had them distributed among the crowd.

After all had eaten, the pieces that were left over were gathered and there was enough to fill twelve baskets.

The Miracle Behind the Miracle

An amazing miracle certainly took place that day. However, we can become so engaged with the miracle that we miss another miracle behind that miracle.

Put yourself in the position of the young boy whose lunch was shared amongst thousands. He could easily have refused to give his lunch to Jesus. If he had, would this miracle even have happened? Maybe he was a little bewildered by the whole thing that he did not really register what was happening? Maybe he thought that they were stealing

his lunch, or maybe that his lunch was going to feed Jesus only.

But where did that lunch come from in the first place? We have to go one step back from here and put ourselves in the shoes of the boy's parents.

To have been able to have had such a "big" lunch meant that the family most certainly had to have had some amount of wealth. His lunch was made up of food from two different industries, farming and fishing. We could therefore surmise that his father had enough money to buy the food from both industries, or was either a farmer or fisherman and was able to barter or buy from the other industry.

We are also told that it was shortly before Passover, so maybe the family as a whole was travelling to Jerusalem for the annual feast. Maybe they gave their son the food and told him to go and listen to Jesus. They could possibly have even been somewhere in the crowd themselves.

Whatever the situation, the boy had been given food by his parents, probably guided by God Himself, in order that he did not go hungry. A simple, and seemingly insignificant act. Something that most mothers do today in packing a lunch for their children to take to school.

Now think about how the boy could have felt at the end of the day. He may have run back to his parents afterwards and told

them all about seeing and hearing Jesus, rattling through the events like most young boys do today about an event they really enjoyed.

Then, when he came to the part about feeding the 5,000, imagine how proud he could have felt in that the lunch he was given that morning was being used to feed the whole crowd. If they were in the crowd themselves, one can almost imagine the mother saying: "That was your lunch that fed everybody?" Imagine what his mother may have felt as she realised that her

seemingly insignificant act of giving her son some lunch, made a difference in the life of 4,999 others.

Be involved

As a parent, one cannot help but be involved in the lives of one's children. Packing a lunch to take to school is a daily task that one overlooks, yet is one that helps to nourish a child to make it through the day. Mothers today are much like the boy's mother in the story who had her son's welfare in mind.

But what about all the other children out there who do not have someone to look after them in that way? What about those living in children's homes having lost their parents to AIDS or have simply been abandoned?

We can ask ourselves the question, "But what can I do to help the situation, I am only one

person?" That is true, but so was the boy's mother only one person, yet the small, seemingly unimportant investment she made in her son, changed the lives of not only the people fed that day, but you and me too as we read of the miraculous act performed by Jesus. That small investment helped to change the world forever.

Investing in the life of a child, however insignificant it may seem, can make a big difference in their lives. It shows them that someone cares for them. That someone loves them. It may make them want to do the same for other children when they grow up. Maybe they will start up their own home for children, or even adopt an orphan. Who knows how far your little act of kindness may be carried forward.

We need to invest in the lives of the children of today. To show them that someone cares. Through our actions we will be showing them the love of God. Our small investment will reap great rewards for the Kingdom.

We need to be just as attentive to the little things as we are the big things. The little seeds we sow into the lives of our children, and those less fortunate may be used to bless the world around them! †

Our small investment will reap great rewards for the Kingdom

We can become so engaged with the miracle that we miss another miracle behind that miracle

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One day, Little Tree is damaged and feels even more insignificant. Jesus sits under His branches to find shade from the sun. Jesus has pity on the tree and repairs Little Tree's damage.

Finally, some men come and cut a branch from little tree which is then used as the cross bar on Jesus' cross.

Through this endearing musical tale, children will learn the true meaning of Easter. A classic your children will love.



R 88

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 Job.

- How many generations did Job live to see?
(G8, A7, E1, H6, C5)
- How many thousand sheep did Job have before they were taken from him?
(E7, H8, A3, G1)
- In what chapter did Job say, "I have no concern for myself"?
(A8, G2, H4, C3)
- How many friends came to comfort Job after his loss?
(D2, H5, F8, C7)
- How many thousand camels did God bless Job with after Job repented?
(F7, C2, B6)
- In what verse of chapter one does God question the accuser (Satan), "Have you considered my servant Job"?
(G7, E6, B1, F3, C9)
- In what chapter of Job do we read the following wise advice, "Blessed is the man whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty"?
(D7, A1, B4)
- According to Zophar, how many sides does true wisdom have?
(F1, G5, D4)
- In how many days did Job lose his home, family, wealth and all his servants?
(G6, D5, A4, H7)

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

Last Month's Solution

Trivia: 2 (2:21), 3 (4:16) 4 (4:1)
1 (4:5) 6(2:12) 8 (8:15)
5 (9:6) 7 (1:10) 9 (8:9)

Sudoku Grid


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

Answers in the Next Edition

GOD'S LIBRARY CARDS

COLLECT THEM ALL - Every month a new Library Card will be released, with facts on many amazing themes of the Bible, e.g. Books, people, places, food and events. Just cut them out and laminate them for easy reference. For additional cards and other related products, contact us.

GOD'S LIBRARY CARDS



Brief facts and trivia about the Bible!

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GENESIS

Key Idea: Generations to Joseph.

Summary: Fascinating stories of people from Adam and Eve in Eden to Joseph in Egypt.

Key People: Adam, Eve, Abel, Seth, Noah, Ham, Shem, Japheth, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Judah.

Key Places: Eden, Ararat, Babel, Ur of Chaldea, Haran of Mesopotamia, Canaan, Egypt.

Strange but True: The answer to which came first: the chicken or the egg (1:26).
A woman who became a salt statue (19:26).
A boy whose hand was older than his older brother (38:27-30).

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Awesome Q notes Answers: A: Thomas Brooks B: A. W. Tozer C: Hugh Downs



Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised."

Job 1:21

