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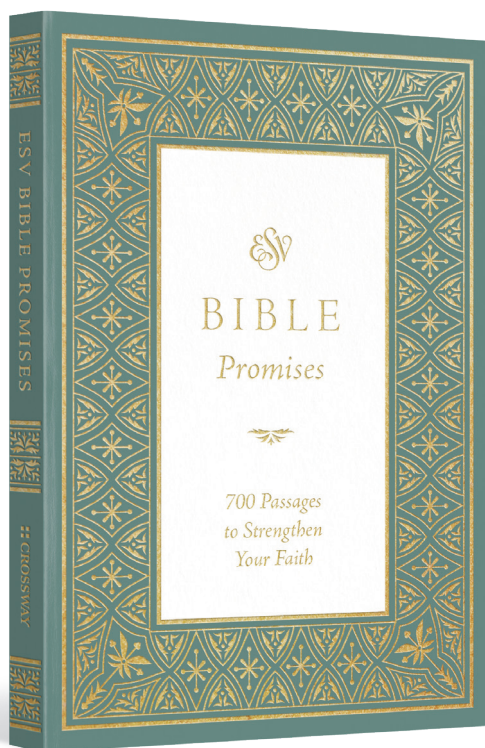
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ESV BIBLE PROMISES

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- **Useful Tool for All:** Great for both men and women in all stages of life

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Compassion

He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Isaiah 40:11

A bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.

Isaiah 42:3

When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

Matthew 14:14

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Hebrews 4:15

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

Colossians 3:12

Fruitfulness

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23

The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and whoever captures souls is wise.

Proverbs 11:30

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers

Psalms 1:1-3

"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

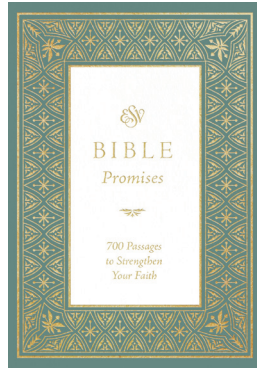
John 15:5

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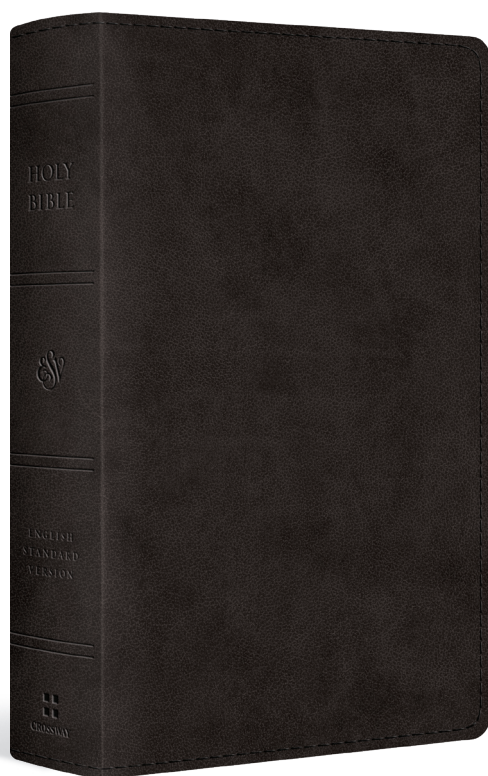


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GENESIS 1:17

2

lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.” ²¹So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. ²⁵And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶Then God said, “Let us make man¹ in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

²⁷ So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” ²⁹And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to every-thing that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

¹ Or flying things; see Leviticus 11:19–20 ² The Hebrew word for man (adam) is the generic term for mankind and becomes the proper name Adam

3

GENESIS 2:19

The Seventh Day, God Rests

2 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ²And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

The Creation of Man and Woman

⁴ These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

⁵When no bush of the field¹ was yet in the land² and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, ⁶and a mist³ was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground—⁷ then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. ⁸And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. ¹¹The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹²And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. ¹³The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat⁴ of it you shall surely die.”

¹⁸Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for⁵ him.” ¹⁹Now out of the ground

¹ Or open country ² Or earth; also verse 6 ³ Or spring ⁴ Or when you eat ⁵ Or corresponding to; also verse 20

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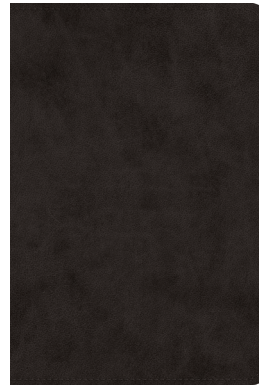


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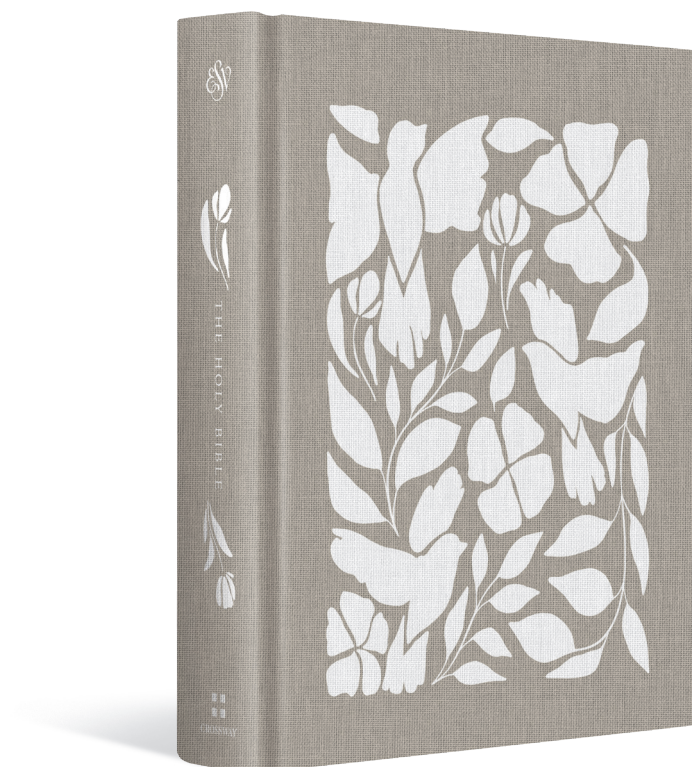


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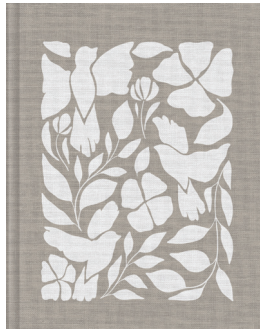
JOHN 2:16	JOHN 4:24
<p>temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."</p> <p>¹⁸So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking about the temple of his body. ²²When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.</p> <p>Jesus Knows What Is in Man</p> <p>²³Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. ²⁴But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people ²⁵and needed no one to bear witness about him, for he himself knew what was in man.</p> <p>You Must Be Born Again</p> <p>³Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus¹ by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." ³Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again¹ he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, "You must be born again." ⁸The wind² blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."</p> <p>⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man." ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life."</p> <p>For God So Loved the World</p> <p>¹⁶For God so loved the world,¹⁶ that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."</p> <p>¹Or This temple was built forty-six years ago ²Greek him ³Or from above; the Greek is purposely ambiguous and can mean both again and from above; also verse 7 ⁴The same Greek word means both wind and spirit ⁵The Greek for you is plural here ⁶The same Greek word means both wind and spirit ⁷The Greek for you is plural here also four times in verse 12 ⁸Some manuscripts add who is in heaven ⁹Some interpreters hold that the quotation ends at verse 15 ¹⁰Or For this is how God loved the world ¹¹Ps. 69:9</p>	<p>John the Baptist Exalts Christ</p> <p>²²After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was baptizing. ²³John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized ²⁴(for John had not yet been put in prison).</p> <p>²⁵Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a few over purification. ²⁶And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him." ²⁷John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. ²⁸You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.' ²⁹The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. ³⁰He must increase, but I must decrease."</p> <p>³¹He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. ³²He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony. ³³Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. ³⁴For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. ³⁵The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. ³⁶Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.</p> <p>Jesus and the Woman of Samaria</p> <p>⁴Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John ⁵(although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), ⁶he left Judea and departed again for Galilee. ⁷And he had to pass through Samaria. ⁸So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁹Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour."</p> <p>¹⁰A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ¹¹(For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) ¹²The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) ¹³Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹⁴The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" ¹⁵Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁷but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. ¹⁸The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." ¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."</p> <p>²⁰Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." ²¹The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ²²for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." ²³The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. ²⁴Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²⁶You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²⁷But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁸God is spirit, and those who worship him</p> <p>¹Some interpreters hold that the quotation continues through verse 36 ²That is, about noon ³Greek lower</p>

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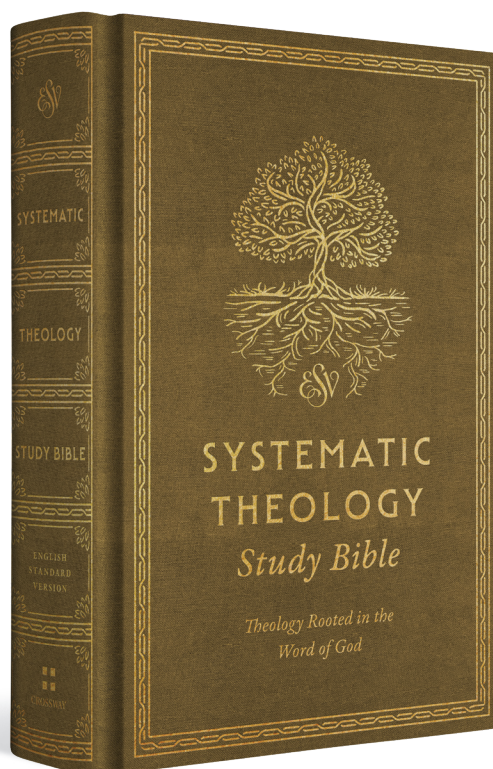
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6.125" x 9.125" | 8-point Lexicon | 2,200 pages | Double-column format | Red letter

JOHN 3:11

the teacher of Israel¹ and yet you do not understand these things?² Truly, truly, I say to you, 'we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but 'you' do not receive our testimony.³ If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things?⁴ No one has⁵ ascended into heaven except 'he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.'⁶ And 'as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man 'be lifted up,⁷ that whoever believes 'in him 'may have eternal life.⁸

For God So Loved the World

¹⁶For 'God so loved 'the world,' that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not 'perish but have eternal life.¹⁷ For 'God did not send his Son into the world 'to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not 'believed in the name of the only Son of God.¹⁹ And this is the judgment: 'the light has come into the world, and 'people loved the darkness rather than the light because 'their works were evil.²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, 'lest

1290

his works should be exposed.²¹ But whoever 'does what is true 'comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.'

John the Baptist Exalts Christ

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²⁵Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over 'purification.²⁶ And they came to John and said to him, 'Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, 'to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and 'all are going to him.'²⁷ John answered, '"A person cannot receive even one thing 'unless it is given him 'from heaven.²⁸ You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but 'I have been sent

¹⁰(ch. 9:30) ¹¹See ver. 32 ¹²Prov. 30:4; (Acts 2:34; Eph. 4:9) ¹³(ch. 1:34) ¹⁴ver. 31; ch. 6:38; 42; 52; 1 Cor. 15:47; (Rom. 10:6) ¹⁵Num. 21:9; ch. 8:28; 12:32; ch. 15:15; 15:4; 16:33; 1 John 5:12; 20) ¹⁶ver. 35 ¹⁷Rom. 5:8; Eph. 2:4; 2 Thess. 2:16; 1 John 3:1; 4:9; 10 ¹⁸See ch. 1:29 ¹⁹Rom. 8:32; ch. 10:28 ²⁰ch. 5:36; 38; 6:29; 57; 7:29; 8:42; 10:36; 11:42; 17:3; 20:21; Rom. 8:3; 1 John 4:3; 10 ²¹ch. 5:45; 8:15; 12:47 ²²ch. 5:24; (Mark 16:7) ²³See 1 John 5:13 ²⁴(ch. 9:33) ²⁵See ch. 1:4; 5 ²⁶1 Tim. 2:10; Jer. 5:31) ²⁷ch. 7:7 ²⁸(Job 24:13; Rom. 12:12; Eph. 5:13) ²⁹Eph. 5:11; 13 ³⁰1 Tim. 1:6 ³¹Ps. 139:23; 24 ³²ver. 26; ch. 4:1; 2 ³³(ch. 5:35); See Matt. 4:12 ³⁴ch. 2:6 ³⁵ver. 2 ³⁶See ch. 1:7 ³⁷ch. 12:15 ³⁸1 Cor. 4:7; Heb. 5:4 ³⁹ch. 6:65; (James 1:17) ⁴⁰See Matt. 21:25 ⁴¹See ch. 1:20 ⁴²Matt. 3:1; Mark 1:2; Luke 1:17; Acts 15:4

¹The Greek for you is plural here; also four times in verse 12 ²Some manuscripts add who is in heaven ³Some interpreters hold that the quotation ends at verse 15 ⁴Or For this is how God loved the world

Christian Life: Assurance

John 3:16-18

God shows his love for a world (v. 16) that hates him (7:7; 15:18) by sending his only Son from heaven to live a sinless life, die for sinners, and rise from the dead. The Father did not send his Son to condemn but to rescue (3:17), and he brings judgment only because of sinful opposition. Startlingly, the Son's coming has illuminated the verdicts of the last day, so that people need not wait for the last judgment to learn their eternal destinies. Their destinies are apparent now, in light of their relationship to Christ—sobering news for his rejecters, who are "condemned already" (v. 18). God wants them to turn to Christ that they might know a change of verdict. However, all who rely upon him alone for salvation are assured now that they will not be condemned by God on the last day (v. 18).

Theology for Life—Believing the gospel carries assurance because it turns us away from ourselves to the Son of God, who rescues the lost. John 3:16 is a truth worth knowing by heart.

For more on assurance see:
John 6:37-40, 44
Rom. 8:14-17
1 John 5:9-13

1291

JOHN 4:29

before him.'²⁹ The one who has the bride is the bridegroom.³⁰ The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, 'rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete.³¹ He must increase, but I must decrease."³²

³³"He who comes from above" is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and 'speaks in an earthly way.³⁴ He who comes from heaven 'is above all.³⁵ He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, 'yet no one receives his testimony.³⁶ Whoever receives his testimony 'sets his seal to this, 'that God is true.³⁷ For he whom 'God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit 'without measure.³⁸ The Father loves the Son and 'has given all things into his hand.³⁹ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; 'whoever does not obey the Son shall not 'see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

Jesus and the Woman of Samaria

⁴Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and 'baptizing more disciples than John² (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples),³ he left Judea and departed 'again for Galilee.⁴ And he had to pass through Samaria.⁵ So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field 'that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.⁶ Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, 'wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour:⁷

⁸A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."

⁹(For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.)¹⁰ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" ('For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)¹¹ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you 'living water."¹² The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?"¹³ Are you greater than our father Jacob? 'He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.'¹⁴ Jesus said to

her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,¹⁵ but 'whoever drinks of the water that I will give him 'will never be thirsty again.' The water that I will give him will become 'in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.'¹⁶ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

¹⁷Jesus said to her, "Go, 'call your husband, and come here."¹⁸ The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband';¹⁹ for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true."²⁰ The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that 'you are 'a prophet.²¹ Our fathers worshiped on 'this mountain, but you say that 'in Jerusalem is 'the place where people ought to worship."²² Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, 'the hour is coming when 'neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.²³ You worship what you do not know; 'we worship what we know, for 'salvation is 'from the Jews.²⁴ But 'the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father 'in spirit and 'truth, for the Father 'is seeking such people to worship him.²⁵ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.'²⁶ The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, 'he will tell us all things."²⁷ Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

²⁸Just then 'his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are you talking with her?"²⁹ So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, "Come, see a man

²⁹See Matt. 25:1 ³⁰John 14:20; Song 5:1 ³¹Matt. 9:15 ³²Matt. 3:11 ³³ch. 8:23 ³⁴Rom. 9:5; Eph. 1:21 ³⁵1 John 4:3 ³⁶See ver. 13 ³⁷ver. 11 ³⁸ver. 19; ch. 1:11; 5:43; 12:37 ³⁹ch. 6:27; 2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13; Rev. 7:3-8 ⁴⁰1 John 5:10 ⁴¹See ver. 17 ⁴²(Exod. 4:11; 16) ⁴³See ver. 5:20 ⁴⁴See Matt. 28:18 ⁴⁵ver. 15; 16; ch. 5:26; 6:40; 47; 56; 1 John 5:12; 13; (ch. 11:25; 26; 20:31); See Matt. 19:16 ⁴⁶Rom. 2:8; Eph. 5:6; Col. 3:6 ⁴⁷See 3 ⁴⁸Chapter 4 ⁴⁹ch. 3:22; 28 ⁵⁰ch. 2:11; 12 ⁵¹(Luke 13:33) ⁵²ver. 12; Gen. 33:19; 48:22; Josh. 24:32 ⁵³ch. 19:28; (Matt. 4:2; 8:24; 21:18) ⁵⁴See ver. 6 above ⁵⁵Luke 9:53; (ch. 8:48; Ezra 4:3; 10) ⁵⁶See Matt. 10:5 ⁵⁷ch. 7:38; ver. 2:13; 17:13 ⁵⁸(ch. 8:53) ⁵⁹ver. 5 ⁶⁰ch. 6:35; 31; 58; 7:37 ⁶¹1 Tim. 4:3; Rev. 7:16 ⁶²ch. 7:38 ⁶³(ch. 6:34) ⁶⁴ch. 16:8 ⁶⁵ch. 8:17; (ch. 6:14) ⁶⁶Luke 7:16; 38; See Matt. 21:11 ⁶⁷Gen. 12:6; 7:33; 18:20; Deut. 11:29; 27:12; Josh. 8:33 ⁶⁸Judg. 9:7 ⁶⁹See Deut. 12:5 ⁷⁰ch. 11:48 ⁷¹ch. 2:4 ⁷²ver. 23; ch. 5:25; 28; 16:2; 25; 32 ⁷³Zeph. 2:11; Mal. 1:11; 1 Tim. 2:8 ⁷⁴2 Pet. 1:7; 28-34; Acts 17:23 ⁷⁵Ps. 147:19; 20; Isa. 2:3; Rom. 3:1; 2:9, 4; 5 ⁷⁶Matt. 24; 5; Acts 13:23; Rom. 11:26 ⁷⁷ver. 21 ⁷⁸Rom. 8:15; Eph. 2:18; 6:18; Phil. 3:3 ⁷⁹Ps. 145:18; (ch. 1:17) ⁸⁰ch. 6:44 ⁸¹See ch. 1:41 ⁸²1 John. 18:18; (ver. 29) ⁸³ch. 9:35-37 ⁸⁴ver. 8

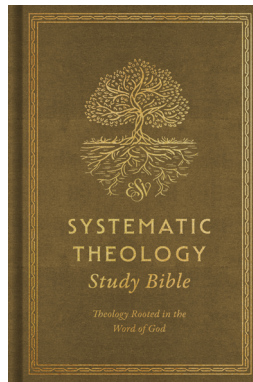
¹Some interpreters hold that the quotation continues through verse 36 ²That is, about noon ³Greek forever

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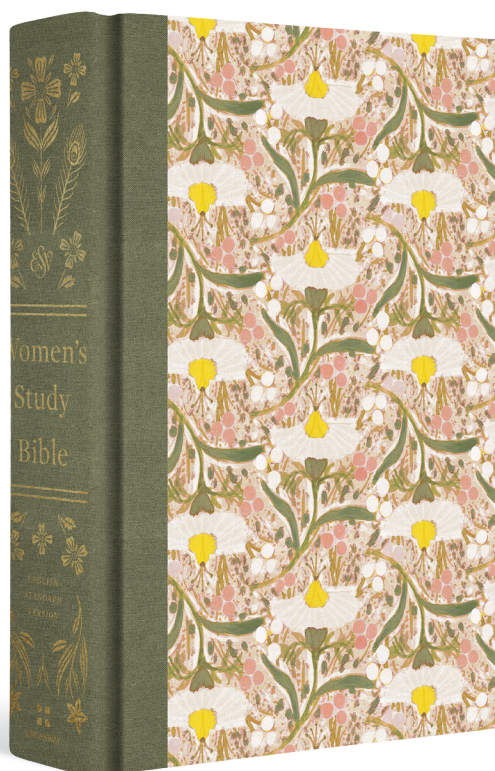


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INTRODUCTION

Author, Date, and Recipients

Traditionally, Moses is considered to have been the author of Genesis and the rest of the Pentateuch (see Num. 33:2; Deut. 31:24; John 5:46). Of course, Moses lived much later than the events of Genesis. Presumably, stories were passed down about those earlier events, and Moses brought them all together.

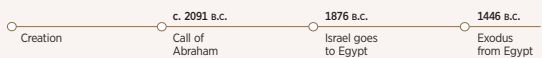
The first audience would have been the Israelites Moses led through the wilderness. For readers today, Genesis is an essential introduction to the rest of the Bible. It is rightly called the book of beginnings.

Theme

The theme of Genesis is creation, sin, and re-creation. God made the world very good, but first cursed it and then destroyed it in the flood because of man's disobedience. The new world after the flood was also spoiled by human sin (ch. 11). God chose Abraham for a special purpose. Through his family, all nations would be blessed (12:1-3). God's purpose will eventually be fulfilled through Abraham's descendants (ch. 49).

Key Themes

1. The Lord God commissions human beings to be his representatives on earth. They are to take care of the earth and govern the other creatures (1:1-2:25).
2. Instead of acting as God's representatives on earth, the first man and woman—Adam and Eve—listen to the serpent and follow his advice. Their disobedience has devastating results for all mankind and for the entire created world (3:1-24; 6:5-6).
3. God graciously announces that Eve's offspring will free humanity from the serpent's control (3:15). Genesis then begins tracing the history of one family that will become the people of Israel. This family has a special relationship with God and will become a source of blessing to fallen humanity (12:1-3).
4. As a result of Adam's disobedience, his unique relationship with the ground degenerates, resulting in hard work and later in flood and famine. But the special family descending from Adam also brings relief from the difficulties (3:17-19; 5:29; 50:19-21).
5. While Eve's punishment centers on pain in bearing children (3:16), women play an essential role in continuing the unique family line. With God's help, even barrenness is overcome (11:30; 21:1-7; 25:21; 38:1-30).
6. The corruption of human nature causes families to be torn apart (4:1-16; 13:5-8; 25:22-23; 27:41-45; 37:2-35). Although Genesis shows the reality of family conflicts, individual members of the chosen family can also help resolve those conflicts (13:8-11; 33:1-11; 45:1-28; 50:15-21).
7. The wicked are exiled from Eden and scattered throughout the earth (3:22-24; 4:12-16; 11:9), but God is kind to his chosen people and promises them a land of their own (12:1-2, 7; 15:7-21; 28:13-14; 50:24).
8. God is prepared to destroy almost the entire human race because of its corruption (6:7, 11-12; 18:17-33), but he still wants his world to be populated by righteous people (1:28; 9:1; 15:1-5; 35:11).



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