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# TAKING THE **WHOLE WORD** TO THE **WHOLE WORLD**

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WE HAVE A BOOK,  
A *God-book*  
AND A HUMAN BOOK,  
ONLY THE *Spirit of God*  
CAN *teach* TO US.

J. VERNON MCGEE



THRU the BIBLE



# WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD

## INVITE GOD'S SPIRIT TO TEACH YOU

Dr. J. Vernon McGee

Illumination means that since you and I have a book—a God-book and a human book, written by men who were expressing their thoughts and while doing this they were writing down the Word of God—only the Spirit of God can teach it to us. Although we can get the facts of the Bible on our own, the Spirit of God will have to open our minds and hearts if we are to understand the spiritual truth that is there.

*But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.* -1 Corinthians 2:9-10

Verse 9 sometimes goes to a funeral. The minister implies that the one who has died didn't know too much down here, but now he will know things he did not know before. While that probably is true (we will get quite an education in heaven), that is not what the verse says. Long before you get to the undertaker, there are a lot of things down here you and I can't learn through natural means. The Holy Spirit has to be our Teacher.

You see, we are studying a book that is different from any other book. It is not that I just believe in the inspiration of the Bible, I believe that it is a closed book to you unless the Spirit of God will open your heart and make it real. When Jesus returned to Jerusalem at that time, He continued teaching the disciples:

*Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."* -Luke 24:44

Notice that He believed Moses wrote the Pentateuch; He believed the prophets spoke of Him and that the Psalms pointed to Him. Now here is the important verse:

*And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.* -Luke 24:45

And, friend, if He doesn't open your understanding, you're just not going to get it, that's all. That is the reason we ought to approach this book with great humility of mind, regardless of how high our IQ is or the extent of our education.

In the first letter to the Corinthians, Paul says:

*These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.* -1 Corinthians 2:13, 14



Download "How to Understand the Bible" for free.



I am never disturbed when an unbeliever, even if he's a preacher, comes along and says he no longer believes the Bible is the Word of God. (He never did believe it, to tell the truth.) After all, if he is not a believer, he cannot understand it. Mark Twain, who was no believer, said that he was

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not disturbed by what he did not understand in the Bible. What worried him were the things he *did* understand. There are things an unbeliever can understand, and it's those which cause many to reject the Word of God. It was Pascal who said, "Human knowledge must be understood to be loved, but Divine knowledge must be loved to be understood."

Only the Spirit of God can open your mind and heart to see and to accept Christ and to trust Him as your Savior. How wonderful! I have always felt as I entered the pulpit how helpless I am because, believe me, Vernon McGee can't convert anyone. But I not only feel weak, I also feel mighty—not mighty in myself, but in the knowledge that the Spirit of God can take my dead words and make them real and living.

## MY TURN

When you read your Bible, you're not alone. The Holy Spirit abides in you, ready to stir your heart, illumine your mind, and direct your life. What a thought!

If you want your Bible reading to have more impact, consider doing these two things every time.

**Pray before you read God's Word.** The Holy Spirit knows your heart's desire and is able to translate anything you say accordingly. Perhaps you can start with something like:

*Lord,  
Please give me a deeper desire to read Your Word.  
Increase my ability to understand Your Word.  
Show me more of Jesus Christ in Your Word.  
Amen.*

### MAKE A HABIT TO READ GOD'S WORD ABOUT GOD'S WORD:

- ① Humble yourself and pray Luke 18:38, "Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner." Stay close to the grace and truth of God's forgiveness and mercy.
- ② Read James 1:22 and ask God, "Make me a doer of Your Word and produce genuine change in my life."
- ③ Ponder Psalm 119:18 and ask God to open your spiritual eyes to the wonder of your life in Christ, things you can't see by yourself.



## SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL HAPPENING IN TURKEY



Harry Bettig, THRU the BIBLE International Liaison for TWR

It's now been over a year since COVID-19 came into our vocabulary. For many people, the pandemic meant bad news, but for others it has brought the Good News. That was the case for three TTB-Turkish listeners, all in their 20s and living in the greater Istanbul area. Enjoy the beautiful impact of God's Word on their lives:

**ONE WOMAN REPORTS:** *"I started to listen to your programs during the pandemic while I was working from home. Otherwise I would not be able to listen to them. Maybe COVID-19 caused a lot of death during this time—but for me it was the opposite. It brought life to me. I had a difficult childhood and was fully concentrated on a successful life. I wanted to gain respect and everything with my own strength. I realized that after listening to your programs. **I saw how desperately I need His love in my life. Thank you for being a road light to me.**"*



**A YOUNG WIFE SAYS:** *"I've been married for two years and discovered some things about my husband after I married him. He was married before and has two children. When I found out, I was disappointed and lost my trust in him. Because of this, we were always having fights. My husband got sick during the pandemic and stayed at the hospital for 15 days. During this time, **I found your programs and they spoke directly to my heart. The life of Christ has impressed me so much.** I learned and believed that I have to forgive my husband because of what Christ did for us. It was not fair to not forgive him. I repented and gave my heart to Christ. My husband is home again, and I have a freedom in my heart which I never felt before."*

**AND HERE IS ANOTHER ENCOURAGING RESPONSE, THIS TIME FROM A YOUNG MAN:**

*"During the pandemic, many people I know have had losses. But for me it became a time of salvation. I've been listening to your programs for one year. At the beginning it was like collecting information, but in time something has started to change my heart. After I lost a friend due to COVID-19, I started to ask more questions about the future and about life after death. I didn't find any answer that covered my fear during this time. But **after listening to your programs with a new attitude, I felt freedom in my heart and decided to give my heart to Christ.** Now I know what will happen to me, even if I die."*



TWR broadcasts the TTB-Turkish program to the two largest cities of Turkey over several FM stations. What an opportunity! During the recent turmoil caused by the pandemic, it is encouraging to see how God has used COVID, THRU the BIBLE, and TWR to bring people to Him.



**HARRY SHARES, "I LOVE THE BIBLE BECAUSE ..." ON THE BACK PAGE.**



## A TEENAGER IN MONGOLIA GIVES HER SORROW TO GOD

*Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. –Psalm 62:8*

*“The Bible is helping me grow closer to God and to my parents.”*

That’s what we recently heard from Nomin, a 15-year-old in Mongolia. Here’s more of her story:

*“My father lives in Europe and provides for his family here in Mongolia. My mother works in a mining company in the countryside. We use Facebook video call and chat apps to keep in touch with each other, but I’m often lonely.*

*“Last Christmas my mother gave me a radio device. I have been following your program for three months. I have learned a lot about the Bible and a relationship with God.*

*“Before, I disliked my mother and her job because she is always away. As I have learned more about the Bible, I know my heart is changing. I have learned to trust God and tell Him of my sorrows. I do not feel as alone*

*anymore. Now I make an effort to understand my mom better, and I tell her what I’ve heard and learned by listening to this program. We are more at peace when we are together and also when we are apart. Please pray for me and my family.”*

Praise God for the changes His Word brings to our hearts and lives. Pray more families in Mongolia will open their hearts to Him and to each other. As they discover His goodness, may they too learn to trust Him and pour their hearts out before Him.

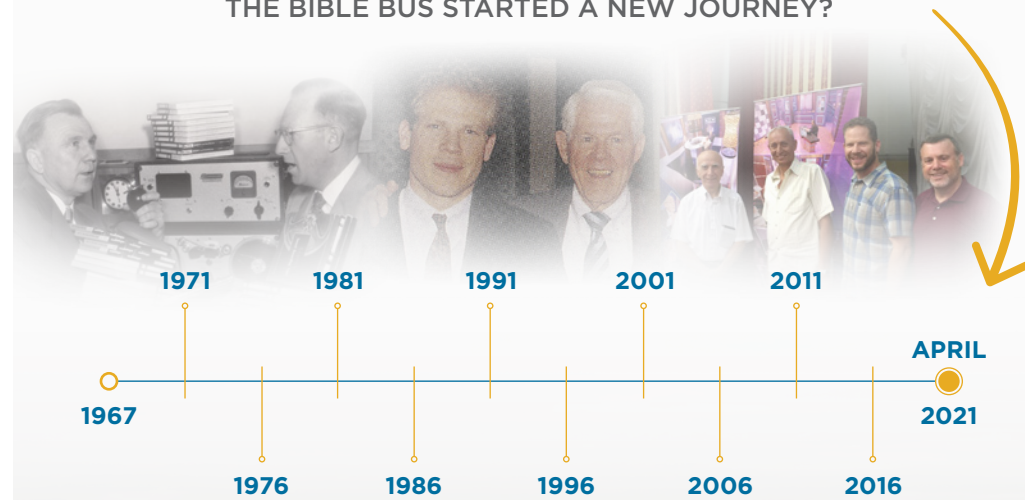
This is an example of the email our World Prayer Team receives every weekday. Together, we are traveling the world on our knees, interceding for one country at a time. We invite you to join us in covering the entire earth with prayer every year.

**GO TO [TTB.ORG/PRAY](http://TTB.ORG/PRAY) TO SIGN UP.**

# What's Happening at THRU the BIBLE

## THE BIBLE BUS BEGINS AGAIN FOR THE 11<sup>TH</sup> TIME!

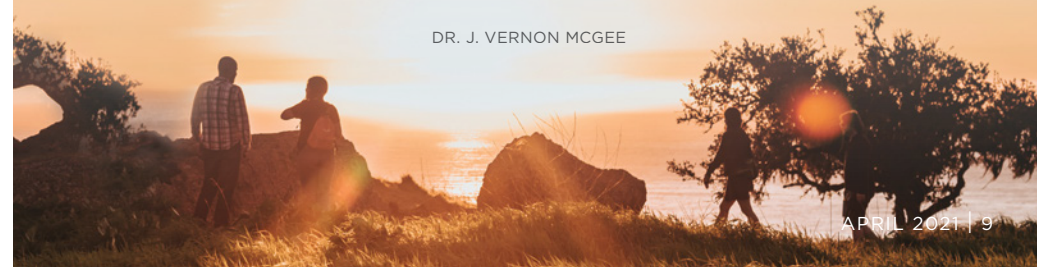
WHERE WERE YOU IN THE YEARS THE BIBLE BUS STARTED A NEW JOURNEY?



WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IN THE NEXT 5 YEARS?

**GOD’S SPIRIT WORKS PROGRESSIVELY IN OUR HEARTS.**  
HE BRINGS US ALONG IN MATURITY, GROWING US UP IN CHRIST.  
**OUR SALVATION** HAPPENED IN A MOMENT, BUT  
**OUR SANCTIFICATION** HAPPENS OVER A LIFETIME.

DR. J. VERNON MCGEE





THRU the BIBLE

## Where Were You?

### A WORD FROM GREGG HARRIS

I know where I was when I first responded in faith to God’s Word. It was my brother’s birthday, and I was 11 years old. My older sister, Kathi, and I were sitting in our family’s laundry room. She shared the gospel with me and led me to faith in Christ. My sins were washed away in that laundry room!

When I was 20 years old, I was really delving into God’s Word. That’s when I began listening to Dr. McGee. I especially remember driving around in my 1972 VW Beetle, hearing him say, “Here’s a letter from India ....” Little did I know God would someday allow me the privilege of helping THRU the BIBLE go deeper into India ... along with many other parts of the world.

That’s my story—what’s yours? *Where were you when you first turned in faith to Jesus Christ as your Savior? When did you first start studying God’s Word on your own? When did you first get on the Bible Bus? What are you learning?* All of these details make up “our testimony,” as it’s called in Christian circles.

Your testimony continues today and includes what you’re learning and how God’s Spirit is nudging you right now. It includes how God uses His Word to point out that specific way you can grow closer to Him, or that specific something that’s in the way.

Our prayer is that God is using the Bible Bus to grow your spiritual eyes and ears and deepen your spiritual wisdom and knowledge of God.

Together, we grow in Him,

Gregg Harris  
THRU the BIBLE, President

P.S. As always, we’d love to hear what God is teaching you as we study together. Write us soon at [BIBLEBUS@TTB.org](mailto:BIBLEBUS@TTB.org)



# WHY STUDY GENESIS?

Join in the studies on *Thru the Bible* APRIL 16—JULY 1 or anytime online, by podcast, or by mobile app.

Genesis is the “seed plot” of the Bible. Here we find the beginning, the source, the birth of everything. The book of Genesis is just like the bud of a beautiful rose, and it opens out into the rest of the Bible. The truth here is in germ form. **From the first mention of Jesus, the accounts of Genesis all point to God’s promise to redeem and bless His people. We trust God’s Word will bless you as we dive into this first book of the Bible on the Bible Bus.**

## “GENESIS” - *Beginning*

*“The first section of Genesis deals with the universe and creation, but the last part deals with man, with nations, and the person of Jesus Christ. God was more interested in Abraham than He was in the entire created universe. And, my friend, God is more interested in you and attaches more value to you than He does to the entire physical universe.”* –J. Vernon McGee

### FOUR MAJOR EVENTS:

**CREATION**  
Chapters 1-2

**FALL**  
Chapters 3-5

**FLOOD**  
Chapters 6-9

**NATIONS**  
Chapters 10-11

### FOUR IMPORTANT PEOPLE:

**ABRAHAM**  
Chapters 12-25

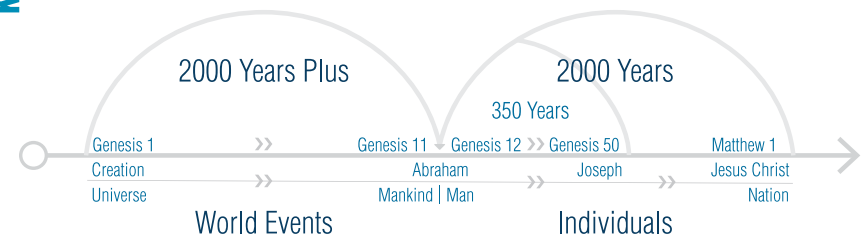
**ISAAC**  
Chapters 26-27

**JACOB**  
Chapters 28-36

**JOSEPH**  
Chapters 37-50

### KEY VERSE

*One of the most profound statements ever made: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”* –Genesis 1:1



WHY DO YOU

the Bible?

## I LOVE THE BIBLE BECAUSE ...

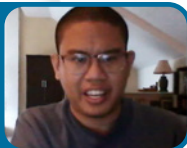


... it contains the gospel, which is the power of God to everyone who believes. **And that power can transform lives and set captive hearts free.** God's Word provides spiritual food that will always satisfy.

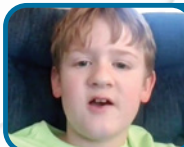
... it lifts my eyes above the circumstances of the day to a wider view of man's relationship with God and **reminds me God is in charge.**

... it reveals Jesus to me. The Bible first introduced me to God's Son, Jesus, over 45 years ago when I read the Gospel of John.

... it's the Living Word, **giving faithful truth to every person, young or old, special or normal**—anyone who has a heart for the Lord.



... when I go through the Bible, **I get to know Jesus better every day.**



... the Bible guides me to know how I should live. It shows me which way to go.

**GO TO [TTB.ORG/LOVE](https://www.ttb.org/love) TO TELL US WHY YOU LOVE THE BIBLE.**



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