

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

*The Bible speaks
to our hearts*

IN A WAY NO OTHER
BOOK CAN DO.

DR. J. VERNON MCGEE



THRU the BIBLE

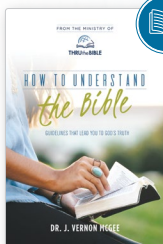


WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD

HOW GOD OPENS HIS WORD TO US



Dr. J. Vernon McGee
THRU the BIBLE Founder



This excerpt is from
“How to Understand the Bible.”
Download the full digital booklet **here.**

When the Bible says “meditate,” God is asking us to “ponder.” Different from just reading or studying, meditating is sitting with God’s truth for a while—giving it careful consideration. God asks you to think about His Word with a receptive heart, trusting His Spirit to work in you through those words. In this excerpt from “How to Understand the Bible,” Dr. McGee teaches us how to meditate.



And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

DEUTERONOMY 6:6-9

God taught His people how to meditate. The Word of God was to be in front of the children of Israel all the time—so that they could meditate on it. God told them to write the Word of God on the doorposts so wherever they turned, it was like looking at billboards. He told His people to get the Word where they would see it. It was on their doorposts, on their gates, and they wore it on their garments. And they were to talk about it when they were walking. They were to talk about the Word when they sat down. They were to talk about it when they went to bed and until they went to sleep. God asked His people to meditate on His Word.

Now what does it really mean to meditate on the Word of God? Psalm 1 tells us:

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. —Psalm 1:1, 2

To meditate is to ruminate, to bring to mind and consider over and over. Ruminating is what a cow is doing when she is chewing her cud. She meditates on it. She brings the grass she ate in the morning (a cow has a complex stomach) out of one chamber and transfers it to another. In the process she is going over it again, chewing it up good. You and I need to learn to do that in our thought processes. We are to get the Word of God, read it, have it out where we can look at it, then think about it, meditate on it.

Many times in preparing a message I'll take a verse of Scripture and spend hours doing nothing but reading it over and over, checking what others have said about it, and just keep reading it. Finally new truth will break out from that particular passage.

There are couples who write to us saying that the wife listens to our Bible study by radio at home, and the husband listens to it at work, and in the evening at the dinner table they discuss the Scripture that was covered. That is meditation; it is going back over it again. Riding along in the car alone is a good place to take a passage of Scripture and really give thought to it.

How many of us, after we've had our "devotions," meditate on that passage during the day? Most read it and then forget it—never thinking about it again until it is called to our attention. Or, if we read it at night, we jump into bed as quickly as we can, turn out the light, and go to sleep, forgetting all about it.

WE ARE TO GET THE WORD OF GOD, READ IT,
HAVE IT OUT WHERE WE CAN LOOK AT IT,
THEN THINK ABOUT IT,

meditate on it.

DR. J. VERNON MCGEE

Meditation is almost a lost art in our contemporary society. So much noise blots out the possibility for meditation. One of the reasons that our churches are becoming colder and more indifferent to the Word of God is simply because there is that lack of meditation upon the Word of God.

Remember meeting the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8 who was riding along reading the prophet Isaiah? He was studying it but not understanding it—he did not know what it meant. Now the Spirit of God is going to open the Word of God to him. That is the reason the Holy Spirit had Philip there to explain the chapter to the Ethiopian. It opened up a new world to him, and he came to know Christ. The record says that he went on his way rejoicing. What was making him rejoice? He was meditating, friend. He was going back over that Isaiah 53 with new understanding.



MY TURN

How can I have a “reflective heart”?

What separates just thinking about God’s Word and meditating on it? It’s the state of your heart. Are you open to what God wants to show you? What are you hoping and expecting Him to do? It starts here.

- ① **Come to God’s Word expecting God to do something.**
Is there something He wants to teach you? To correct in you? To calm in you? Come to His Word believing He can do it.
 - Jesus promised in Luke 11:9 that those who seek Him will find Him.
 - Hebrews 11:6 says we can trust God will reward those who seek Him with a better understanding of His will and His ways.
- ② **Ask God to show you His Word.** Psalm 119:18 says, “Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law.”
- ③ **Tune your attention to listen to Him in your spirit.**
Ask yourself:
 - What does this verse or passage teach me about God?
 - What does this teach me about myself?
 - How might this change me and my thinking if I believed it?



WHY WE WENT TO AFRICA

Last month on the air, we heard Gregg Harris and Steve Shwetz talk about their recent trip to Africa.

“We take these trips,” Gregg says, “to see what God is doing, to discern it, and to lend our support to how people are using THRU the BIBLE in their area. Then, we bring back the news to you who partner with us in taking the whole Word to the whole world.

“I went to Uganda, along with our wonderful colleague, Brian Emerson. Every day we drove over five hours, visiting radio stations, doing live interviews, and visiting listeners, which is always the greatest joy in the world. **Everywhere we went, half the crowd were pastors and we learned about the impact THRU the BIBLE is having on the Christian leaders of the east African church.**

“Steve went to Ethiopia and we converged in Kenya to host a ministry partnership conference of like-minded leaders. More than 40 different ministries were represented.”

Steve adds, “**I think I was more excited for the coffee breaks than the presentations because I heard how people were finding out how to help each other and working together to spread the gospel. So many new language programs and Home Groups were being discussed. And we are already seeing the fruit.**”

Please pray that these new ministry relationships would go well and ask God to use these efforts to make known the name of Jesus Christ in east Africa. Enjoy these snapshots of the beautiful things God is doing.



MORE FROM GREGG & STEVE'S
AFRICAN PHOTO ALBUM ON BACK PAGE.







GOD'S DAILY GRACE

"What if?" These are two of the scariest words in the English language. What if I don't have enough? What if the doctor says I have cancer? What if ...? Pavel in England recently shared how he's overcome this type of fear. Here's his story:

"I am here in the countryside for two weeks helping my sister look after her children. Your program has been a blessing and, thanks to Internet streaming, I do not have to stop listening. Even her family listens with me now.

"After they moved from our hometown, they drifted away from God and from matters of faith. I hope that hearing passages about the Messiah and the tremendous life transformation in Him will help them get back to the Word of God and prayer they so badly need. Their days are full of anxiety for the future. They have so many unanswered questions and worry about the many things that could go

wrong. They have forgotten about God's grace that meets our needs every day.

"Your reminders to trust Him to do all that He promises are always so timely. Please pray my sister and her family learn to rely on the grace they are hearing about from you."

The Bible tells us we can have confidence that God is with and for us—every day! Pray all those who hear THRU the BIBLE in the United Kingdom (and around the world) experience hope in knowing that God cares about all the needs in their lives.

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

**GO TO [TTB.ORG/PRAY](https://ttb.org/pray)
TO SIGN UP.**

WHY STUDY JEREMIAH?

Join in the studies on
THRU the BIBLE JULY 1-26
or anytime online, by podcast,
or by mobile app.

Jeremiah's message was the most unwelcome message ever delivered, and people rejected it. They called him a traitor because he said they were to yield to Babylon. Isaiah, almost a century before him, had said to resist. Why this change? In Jeremiah's day they only had one option: surrender. In God's economy, the nation was defeated. They had turned their back on God and God said, "Enough."

"Jeremiah was a remarkable man of God. I call him God's crybaby because he was in tears most of the time. God chose a man with a tender heart, a trembling voice, and tear-filled eyes to deliver a harsh message of judgment. Jeremiah's message broke his own heart."

—Dr. J. Vernon McGee

3 STAND-OUT VERSES IN JEREMIAH

- *"And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart."* —29:13
- *"Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love ... with lovingkindness I have drawn you."* —31:3
- *"Ah, Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power There is nothing too hard for You."* —32:17



DON'T BACKSLIDE! THAT'S JEREMIAH'S MESSAGE IN TWO WORDS. USED 13X.

Dr. McGee reflects on what it means to backslide: *"Backsliding means to refuse to go God's way—refusing to listen to Him. Pretty soon you'll start moving backwards and get farther and farther from God. God asked Israel to return to Him and they wouldn't. As a result, they went into captivity."*

BUT THERE'S HOPE. Jeremiah tells of a future day when God promises to restore His people who are now being disciplined. Read Jeremiah 29:10-14 for the context of this often quoted verse: *"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."* For more hope for Israel, read Jeremiah 31, and especially 31:33-34.





Open Doors ... Do You See Them?

Every month when Steve and I talk on-air with you about how God is working in and through the ministry, you likely hear us laugh. The open doors just aren't stopping. We laugh because you can't make this stuff up. If you gathered the smartest, wisest, tech-iest, savviest, most well-traveled, most well-connected people into a room, you wouldn't come up with the plan God lays out before THRU the BIBLE every day.

You'd think an 'ole legacy program featuring a guy who has been with the Lord for 30+ years would be winding down by now. Instead, it feels at times like a hold on, hang-onto-your-hat, this-is-gonna-be-good kind of ride. I won't lie—it's not always easy, but it is always amazing.

I agree with Dr. McGee that the prayers of our THRU the BIBLE family are significant to the success of these opportunities. So, thank you for your intercession, for your financial support, for your eager and willing participation in a mission that is so much larger, so much greater than any of us realize.

Let's together continue to take His whole Word to the whole world until Jesus comes again.

Grateful for your partnership in the gospel,

Gregg Harris
THRU the BIBLE, President

***This was the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.
This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.***

—Psalm 118:23-24

WHY STUDY LAMENTATIONS?

Join in the studies on
THRU the BIBLE JULY 29-31
or anytime online, by podcast,
or by mobile app.

This small book is the saddest book in the Bible. It's Jeremiah's funeral dirge, like he's singing the blues as he walked the destroyed streets of Jerusalem.

"Lamentations is the wailing wall of the Bible."

—Dr. J. Vernon McGee

KEY
VERSE

Great is Your faithfulness.

—Lamentations 3:23

AN ANCIENT HOLOCAUST.

Lamentations is about the most tragic event in ancient Israel's history. Invading armies leveled every city in Israel, including Jerusalem. For 2 ½ years the Babylonian soldiers surrounded Jerusalem and starved the people out. The few survivors were taken as POWs to Babylon.

But even in the desolation, Jeremiah pointed people to God. ***"Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness"*** (Lamentations 3:22-23). Good verses to memorize!

THE HEBREW A-B-C's. Lamentations' five chapters each have 22 verses—the same number and order as the Hebrew alphabet. Each verse starts with a different letter, beginning with *aleph*, followed by *beth*, etc. These songs were meant to be remembered. They likely were prayed or sung in worship services devoted to asking God's forgiveness.

BIG TAKEAWAY: SIN HAS CONSEQUENCES.

For decades, God's prophets had pleaded with Israel to turn back to Him—but they refused. **Now, in this tragedy, they remembered God.**



I LOVE TO

TELL THE STORY

THE BIBLE BUS IN AFRICA

SEE THE FACES OF THOSE IMPACTED BY YOUR PRAYERS
TO TAKE THE WHOLE WORD TO THE WHOLE WORLD



PHOTO ALBUM CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6-7



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All Scripture is from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted.

The cover photo was taken by THRU the BIBLE team member, Brian Emerson,
at sunrise in Mbarara, Uganda before the pastor's meetings.