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

THE BIBLE SPEAKS TO

our hearts

IN A WAY NO

OTHER BOOK CAN.

J. VERNON MCGEE



THRU the **BIBLE**



WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD

IN THE BEGINNING ...

“A BIRD’S-EYE VIEW OF GENESIS”

Dr. J. Vernon McGee

The Bible itself will speak to our hearts in a way no other book can do. Let’s remember that as our journey through the whole Word begins.

Let me give you a bird’s-eye view of Genesis, a view that will cover the total spectrum of the book. I’ll point out certain things that are relevant to the entire Scripture.

Genesis states many things for the first time: creation, man, woman, sin, sabbath, marriage, family, labor, civilization, culture, murder, sacrifice, races, languages, redemption, and cities.

Genesis also favors certain phrases. “These are the generations of” describes the families of early history. We are members of this human family, and we spy its beginnings here.

Genesis portrays some very interesting character profiles; it’s a book of biographies. We meet Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Pharaoh, and the 11 sons of Jacob besides Joseph. You will find that God is continually blessing Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. In addition, those who are associated with them—Lot, Abimelech, Potiphar, the butler, and Pharaoh—are also blessed of God.

Genesis first mentions the idea of God’s covenant with man. The Lord frequently appears to the patriarchs, especially to Abraham. The altar is also prominent in Genesis. Sadly, jealousy in the home is rooted here. Egypt is a real destination as it is nowhere else. Judgment on sin is mentioned first in Genesis, as well as evident leadings of providence.

Where would you divide Genesis if only into two parts? I propose between chapters 11 and 12. The first 11 chapters constitute a whole, and beginning with chapter 12 through the remainder of the book, we find an altogether different section. The two parts differ in several ways: The first section extends from creation to Abraham. The second section extends from Abraham through Joseph. The first section deals with major subjects, which even still engage the minds of thoughtful people in our day: the Creation, the Fall, the Flood, the Tower of Babel. The second section has to do with personalities: Abraham, the man of faith; Isaac, the beloved son; Jacob, the chosen and chastened son; and Joseph, his suffering and glory.

Although that is a major division, there is another division of time even more significant. The first eleven chapters cover a minimum time span of 2,000+ years. I feel it is safe to say they may cover several hundred thousand years. This first section of Genesis can cover any time in the past that you may need to fit into your particular theory, and the chances are you would come short of it even then. At least we know the book covers a minimum of 2,000 years in the first 11 chapters, but the second section of 39 chapters covers only 350 years. In fact, beginning with Genesis 12 and running all the way through the Old Testament and the New Testament, a total time span of only 2,000 is covered. Therefore, as far as time is concerned, when you’ve read up to Genesis 11, you’re halfway through the Bible.

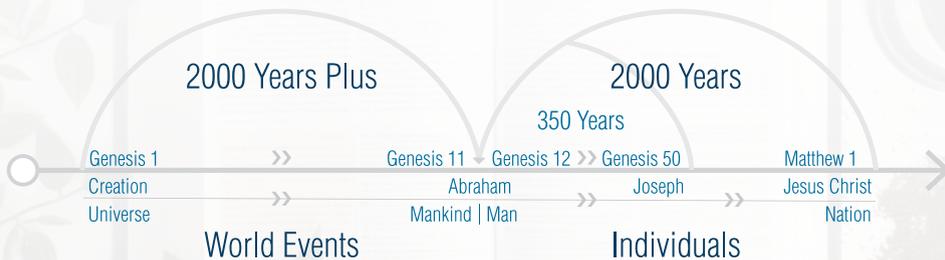
Wouldn't that suggest to our minds and hearts that God had some definite purpose in giving this first section to us? Do you think God is putting the emphasis on this first section or on the rest of the Bible? Isn't it evident that He is putting the emphasis on the last part? The first section has to do with the universe and with creation, but the last part deals with man, with nations, and with 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.**

Genesis is the "seed plot" of the Bible, and 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.

One of the best divisions of Genesis is according to the genealogies—i.e., according to the families.

Genesis 1–2:6	Generations of Heavens and Earth
Genesis 2:7–6:8	Generations of Adam
Genesis 6:9–11	Generations of Noah and sons
Genesis 11:27–25:11	Generations of Terah and Abraham
Genesis 25:12–35:29	Generations of Ishmael and Isaac
Genesis 36:1–50:26	Generations of Esau and Jacob

All of these are given to us in the book of Genesis. It is a book of families. Genesis is an amazing book, and it will be a delight to study it with you.



MY TURN

“ **BEFORE YOU BEGIN TO STUDY GENESIS, I SUGGEST YOU READ IT THROUGH, IN ONE SITTING IF YOU CAN.**

THIS MAY BE DIFFICULT (I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO), BUT YOU WILL FIND IT VERY PROFITABLE. ”

—DR. J. VERNON MCGEE

It might take you a whole afternoon or evening to read the book of Genesis. Bible-reading apps say it takes about four hours. Even if you have to take it in four, one-hour segments, **take Dr. McGee's advice and dedicate time to reading Genesis as a whole before you dive into the details.**

REMEMBER WHAT WE LEARNED IN “GUIDELINES TO UNDERSTANDING SCRIPTURE”:

WHEN YOU WANT TO STUDY EACH CHAPTER, LOCATE:

- ① The **theme**
- ② The **most important verse**
- ③ The **most prominent word**
- ④ The **teaching about Christ**
- ⑤ The **command to obey**
- ⑥ The **promise to claim**
- ⑦ The **new truth learned**

Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law.

—PSALM 119:18

“A WORLD IN CRISIS TURNS TO GOD’S WORD”

PANDEMIC STORIES FROM THRU THE BIBLE’S GLOBAL FAMILY

Celebrate what God was doing this year

FROM SERBIA: “I have a friend who contracted Covid-19. He was immediately isolated from everyone, but God used this as an opportunity. **My friend knew I was a Christian and called to ask me questions about God and my faith every day. His spirit was hungry, and he cried out to God.**

“On my suggestion, he listened to *Thru the Bible* on the internet almost all day. **Dr. McGee’s messages clarified many things for him. He came to know the truths from Scripture, and through them he came to know God. One evening he prayed with me, asking for God’s forgiveness of sin, and received the gift of eternal life.** It was such an exciting moment for me. I saw God in action, God who is almighty and who can reverse even the most difficult situations. After three weeks, my friend recovered physically, but spiritually he was a completely new person.

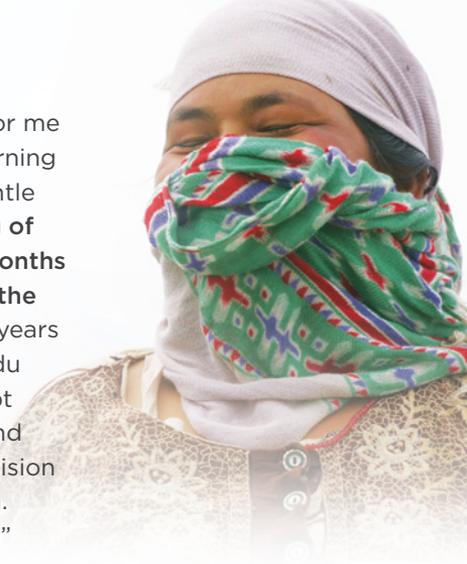
“I hope everyone who hears *Thru the Bible* will not worry or complain. **We should believe God. He is powerful and He loves us. Jesus died for us—God gave His Son so we would have eternal life, and He will not deprive us of anything. I thank God for this wonderful Bible teaching.** In my affected country where most have lost faith and hope, we need the Bible more than anything. May God richly bless *you* and all who partner with you.”

A TEENAGER IN NEPAL TURNS TO JESUS: “Covid-19 means bad news to many people, but for me it has brought the Good News. One morning this summer I awoke to a polite and gentle voice on the radio. **It was the beginning of my journey with you. I listened three months straight. I am now a Christian and love the Lord Jesus Christ.** I am a Nepali girl, 19 years old. My whole family is orthodox in Hindu practices. The fact that I dared to accept Jesus Christ as the one and only God and during the lockdown is not a happy decision for my family, but I continue to press on. **I have found life and will not turn away.”**

FROM THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, A LISTENER ON THE LINGALA BIBLE BUS WROTE: “Covid-19 paralyzed all our church activities. We were hostage and have longed for freedom. But we can still pray! So, our family began a serious endeavor. We listened every evening to your Bible study and then prayed together, sometimes late into the night. Mostly we prayed for God’s Word to be heard by many who normally don’t take time to read the Bible or think about God but now had the time because of the lockdown. **This prayer time is now a highlight of our family life together. In an odd way, we are grateful for the lockdown—it’s helped us focus on what is important.”**

FROM AFRICA, A TIGRINYA LISTENER IN ERITREA WRITES: “We are not frightened of this pandemic, because we know God is in control. As Dr. McGee said, “The peace of God guards us like a sentinel on duty, protecting us in life’s most worrisome trials.” As a result of Covid-19, life became difficult, and many were scared. **But your program is our friend, comforter, and Bible school in this bad time.** God knew of the pandemic, and He prepared us for this opportunity to hear and learn His Word. **I know many tuning in because they are restless or fearful. Some have never heard the name of Jesus. God is using this time and your program to reach them. Glory be to Him forever!”**

FROM COSTA RICA: “My country is terrified because of Covid-19. Some are desperate not knowing what to do and listen to preposterous suggestions by false prophets. **But we as Christians are blessed because we have the Word of God. We listen to *Thru the Bible*. Even non-believers listen and realize Jesus is the only solution for the challenges of this world.”**





A Biblical Philosophy of Ministry

Dr. McGee taught us that God expects us to spread His Word as far and wide as possible:

“Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel’ ... is the message for our age. This is the time for sowing the Word of God. My business and your business is just sowing the seed. It is the Lord’s business to do the converting. We believe that the Spirit of God will take the Word of God and make a son of God. We are just seed-sowers.”

THRU the BIBLE believes and practices this every day. The clarity of our mission—*“Take the whole Word to the whole world”*—keeps us focused on what matters, even when presented with other interesting things we could be doing. Thanks to your faithful prayers and financial support, God’s Word is traveling far and wide across the earth.

THRU the BIBLE’s radio and TV broadcast ministry broadcasts more than 1.1 million programs every year! That breaks down to more than 3,000 over-the-air broadcasts each day, or 125 each hour, or about two broadcasts every minute. By the time you finish reaching this article, something like ten THRU the BIBLE programs will have been released over the air somewhere in the world in several different languages.

In addition to that exciting picture, we know millions of THRU the BIBLE programs are heard or watched every year on digital platforms. This is the result of our single focus on our mission: To make the Word of God and Dr. McGee’s systematic teaching of it available to anyone on earth who wants it. With your prayerful support and God’s enabling grace, we are sowing a lot of seed!

God truly honors His promise that His Word never returns void. When we see and hear responses from all corners of the globe, He gets all the glory. The Apostle Paul made this clear in 1 Corinthians 3:6-8:

“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.”



This biblically grounded philosophy of ministry is both tremendously freeing and incredibly exciting. We relentlessly focus on the task God has given us to spread His Word, and we know He takes responsibility for using it to transform lives. That would be a burden far too heavy for fragile mortals to bear.

Our faithfulness to God’s calling will result in a reward for our labors. That’s why we’re so bold in inviting you to pray with and for THRU the BIBLE. **When you prayerfully support the ministry this way, you become a spiritual stakeholder in the work and its fruit. In short, you will share in the rewards God promises to those who faithfully do their part to get His Word out.**

While we know the age of the harvest is still to come, God graciously encourages us with stories of seed falling on good soil. We hear of Muslim clerics who listen in secret to THRU the BIBLE and then publicly declare they trust Christ for their eternal salvation. Gang members, criminals, and prisoners tell us they have encountered the living Savior and their lives are transformed. Pastors, missionaries, and evangelists report how Dr. McGee’s teaching revolutionizes their ministries. Married couples testify to the power of God’s Word to heal their marriages and bring peace to their homes. Persecuted Christians are strengthened to suffer for Jesus’ sake. Truly God’s Word does not return empty.

Thank you for laboring with us in this most thrilling adventure of taking the whole Word to the whole world. Eternity will be filled with these stories!



Gregg Harris

Gregg Harris
THRU the BIBLE, President



EXPANDING THRU THE BIBLE'S REACH IN NIGERIA

Heard in the languages of Hausa and Yoruba in Nigeria for more than 20 years, in 2020 we were thrilled to launch THRU the BIBLE for 27 million speakers of the Igbo language. The response was immediate and exciting. Together let's rejoice in a few of the texts we've already received:

"God bless you all for bringing the Word of God to us in the Igbo language. You simplify the Bible so we understand the Word very clearly."

"Your teaching has taught me the importance of forgiveness in my life. I have held on to old grievances for too long."

"I have known about God, but through you I learned about the importance of faithfulness. This is new thinking for me."

"Your program has changed my life since I began listening to it. I want to tell everyone I know about Jesus."

"My family is not happy that I am Christian. I have learned that God has a plan for His people, even in the midst of persecution."

Prayer travelers, God is at work. Thank you for your faithful intercession. Keep it up! As we praise God that His Word is now heard in Igbo, ask Him to continue to help these listeners and all those who join us on the Bible Bus to go deeper. May God's Word continue to transform us each day as we draw closer to Him through His Word.

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](https://ttb.org/pray) TO SIGN UP.



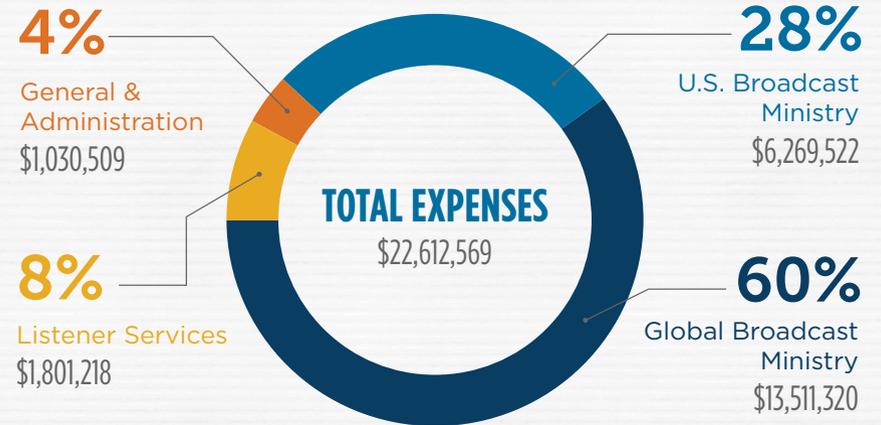
ANNUAL REPORT OF MINISTRY IN 2020

In an unprecedented year of challenges, your investment in THRU the BIBLE made it possible for God's Word to travel unhindered through your hometowns, near and far.

As THRU the BIBLE's president, Gregg Harris, shared (pages 8-9), "more than 3,000 over-the-air broadcasts [go out] each day, or 125 each hour, or about two broadcasts every minute." And that's not even counting the times someone was challenged or encouraged from God's Word via an app, podcasting, online, through ministry partners like OnePlace.com, YouVersion, or on YouTube.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL INVESTMENT OF PRAYER AND FINANCES TO TAKE THE WHOLE WORD TO THE WHOLE WORLD.

2020 EXPENSES



Our vision

Reach everyone on earth who wants to read/hear/see God's Word with an explanation of all of it in whatever language and medium they understand best.

As you pray with us toward this vision, ponder Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15, and Luke 8:11-15.



WHY DO YOU

the Bible?



"Why I love the Bible in 30 seconds?
That's a tall order, fellows!"

"The Bible is not just a book;
it's a way of life. **It's a way to life.**"



"John 3:16, 'For God so loved the world that
He gave His only begotten Son'"

"I love the Bible and you should
get one and read it, too!"



"I love the Bible because it
teaches me about Jesus"



"What I love most about
the Bible **is that it's true!**"



"I love the Bible **because it's exciting!**
It's my first time reading through"



"I love the Bible because it
reveals Jesus Christ to me."



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