



Walking
in Grace

DEVOTIONAL BIBLE

*With Reflections and Prayers
to Guide You through God's Word*

NIV ™
NEW INTERNATIONAL
VERSION

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A LIBRARY IN ITSELF

The Bible is made up of 66 individual books . . . written by different authors . . . with different writing styles . . . in different eras of history . . . with different purposes in mind as they wrote. What separates the Bible from other anthologies is that it contains the very words of God—written through many different men over a long period of time. The result is one amazingly cohesive book made up of wildly disparate parts. Here’s a quick look at the different genres you’ll find as you explore the books of Scripture.

OLD TESTAMENT

BOOKS OF THE LAW

GENESIS THROUGH DEUTERONOMY

The first five books of the Bible (the Pentateuch) detail God’s interaction with his human creation. They offer vivid descriptions of God making himself known to individuals, including Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses. Specifically, these books catalog God’s dealings with the Israelites, his chosen people. They give us snapshots of his love, mercy, justice, and holiness. In these books, God establishes the rules for living that he expects will govern the lives of his people.

BOOKS OF HISTORY

JOSHUA THROUGH ESTHER

These books record the history of the Israelites and the lives of such notables as Joshua, Samson, David, and Solomon. They also establish an unfortunate pattern in the relationship between God and his people. The sequence goes like this: God gives instructions on how to live in such a way that we can enjoy his blessings and fellowship; humans ignore his instructions and disobey him, putting an obstacle in the way of their relationship with him; God punishes the disobedience and withholds his blessings; humans recognize their error and repent; God forgives and restores his blessings. That pattern of disobedience-rejection-repentance-acceptance is repeated continually throughout the Old Testament books of history.

BOOKS OF POETRY

JOB THROUGH SONG OF SONGS

These books record the thoughts, personal struggles, and hard-earned wisdom of God’s people. They address timeless topics such as why people suffer, what kind of worship pleases the Lord, and how God’s wisdom can be applied to everyday life.

BOOKS OF THE PROPHETS

ISAIAH THROUGH MALACHI

You’ve heard the expression “God works in mysterious ways.” The fact is, God often gives his people advance notice of his intentions and plans. That notice can be found in the books of

prophecy. Not only do the prophets offer warnings to the people of Israel, they also point to the long-awaited Messiah, the One who would ultimately restore the relationship between God and humans. Through God's emissaries, the people had an opportunity to listen to what God wanted to communicate to them. Unfortunately, more often than not the prophetic words fell on deaf ears. Today we enjoy the luxury of the new perspective that time brings and the knowledge that many of these pronouncements have been realized in the person of Jesus, the Messiah.

NEW TESTAMENT

BOOKS OF HISTORY

MATTHEW THROUGH ACTS

The first four books of the New Testament (the Gospels) present four different, yet ultimately complementary, accounts of the life of Christ. The accounts are culled from personal recollections and eyewitness testimony.

Before Jesus returned to heaven, he instructed his followers to spread his Good News across the globe. The Book of Acts details the efforts of the early believers to do just that. In its pages you'll find the beginning of the church, the body of Christ on Earth.

LETTERS

ROMANS THROUGH REVELATION

God commissioned men such as Paul, Peter, and John to write letters to various early churches and church leaders, encouraging them in their faith and addressing problems they faced. In the process, the Lord outlined the basic doctrines of the Christian life and spelled out the responsibilities of believers throughout history.

AUTHOR: MOSES
AUDIENCE: GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE,
THE ISRAELITES
DATE: BETWEEN 1446 AND 1406 BC
SETTING: THE AREA NOW KNOWN AS
THE MIDDLE EAST

OT.1

ESSENTIALS OF

Genesis

Genesis (meaning “origin”) outlines the beginnings of human history. Filled with dramatic stories and characters, it’s an easy book to read devotionally. You’ll find God intimately involved in this book. He’s the Creator, director, and participating player in the drama of life. As you walk through this book, focus on God’s incredible work of creation, as well as his interaction with each person. Let the stories you read speak to you about his nature. As you read and reflect, you’ll experience the promise, “Come near to God and he will come near to you” (James 4:8).

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN GENESIS

- :: GOD’S CREATION OF A PERFECT WORLD
- :: WHO FAILED AND WHY
- :: NOAH’S WILLINGNESS TO TRUST AND OBEY GOD
- :: THE TESTING OF ABRAM’S FAITH
- :: GOD’S PROMISES TO HIS PEOPLE
- :: GOD’S ASSURANCE OF HOPE TO THOSE WHO SUFFER
- :: WHY GOD IS WORTH KNOWING AND TRUSTING

Genesis

The Beginning

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

³And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning — the first day.

⁶And God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.” ⁷So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. ⁸God called the vault “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning — the second day.

⁹And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good.

¹¹Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. ¹²The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening, and there was morning — the third day.

¹⁴And God said, “Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the vault of

the sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶God made two great lights — the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, ¹⁸to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening, and there was morning — the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.”

²¹So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.” ²³And there was evening, and there was morning — the fifth day.

²⁴And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. ²⁵God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals,^a and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

^a 26 Probable reading of the original Hebrew text (see Syriac); Masoretic Text *the earth*

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

²⁸God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

²⁹Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

³¹God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

2 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

²By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.

³Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

Adam and Eve

⁴This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

⁵Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth^a and no plant had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, ⁶but streams^b came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground. ⁷Then the LORD God formed a man^c from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

⁸Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. ⁹The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters. ¹¹The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹²(The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin^d and onyx are also there.) ¹³The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush.^e ¹⁴The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Ashur. 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 take care of it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

¹⁸The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

¹⁹Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. ²⁰So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

But for Adam^f no suitable helper was found. ²¹So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs^g and then closed up the place with flesh. ²²Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib^h he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

²³The man said,

“This is now bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called ‘woman,’
for she was taken out of man.”

^a 5 Or *land*; also in verse 6 ^b 6 Or *mist* ^c 7 The Hebrew for *man* (*adam*) sounds like and may be related to the Hebrew for *ground* (*adamah*); it is also the name *Adam* (see verse 20). ^d 12 Or *good*; *pearls* ^e 13 Possibly southeast Mesopotamia ^f 20 Or *the man* ^g 21 Or *took part of the man’s side*
^h 22 Or *part*

²⁴That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

²⁵Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

The Fall

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

⁴"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵"For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

⁶When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

¹⁰He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

¹¹And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

¹²The man said, "The woman you put here with me — she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,

"Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.

¹⁵And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring^a and hers; he will crush^b your head, and you will strike his heel."

¹⁶To the woman he said,

"I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children.

Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

¹⁷To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,'

"Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life.

¹⁸It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."

²⁰Adam^c named his wife Eve,^d because she would become the mother of all the living.

²¹The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

²²And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever."²³So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.

²⁴After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side^e of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

^a 15 Or seed ^b 15 Or strike ^c 20 Or The man ^d 20 Eve probably means living. ^e 24 Or placed in front

A MOMENT OF GRACE

But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.
—Romans 8:25 (NIV)

“You mean I *never* get to watch that movie again?”

“Brogan, I didn’t say *never*. I’m saying not today. What about one of these other movies?”

My words didn’t matter. Out came the lip-and-chin quiver. My five-year-old son could not get over the fact that I didn’t want him to watch a particular movie that day. Never mind that he had a plethora of other ones to choose from.

“Buddy, let’s not focus on the one thing you can’t have.”

As soon as the words left my mouth, I knew they weren’t just for my son. I had been fixating on the one area of my life that God had said no to: another child. And it wasn’t even a no, never; it was a no, not yet.

Maybe it was time to step back and see the broader picture and not let the truth become blurry and distorted. How quickly God’s yes could slip into obscurity when His *no* becomes our focus.

Those words to my son became God’s words to me, from a God who pours out blessings, a God who poured out His very life.

*Lord, Your blessings are everywhere. Give me eyes
to see them and forgive me when I don’t.*
—Katie Ganshert

Digging Deeper

Genesis 3:2–13; 1 John 3:1

AUTHOR: MATTHEW, ALSO CALLED LEVI,
THE TAX COLLECTOR

AUDIENCE: GREEK-SPEAKING JEWISH CHRISTIANS

DATE: BETWEEN AD 50 AND 70

SETTING: MATTHEW MOST LIKELY WRITES FROM
ISRAEL, ALTHOUGH SOME BELIEVE HE WRITES
FROM SYRIAN ANTIOCH.

NT.40

ESSENTIALS OF

Matthew

The first pages of the New Testament open with a list. Far from boring, Matthew's genealogy leading to Jesus makes for worthwhile reading. We learn that Jesus doesn't enter the world in a vacuum; he enters history. His birth places him in a culture, a situation, and a family. When God becomes man, he accepts more than a human body; he takes on the human experience. As you read Matthew's account of Jesus' life, appreciate the sense of history and connection that fills nearly every page. Whether challenged by men or by Satan, Jesus demonstrates that he's the Son of God. He preaches, teaches, and performs miracles, not to prove that he's Lord and Savior but because he is Lord and Savior.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN MATTHEW

:: THOUGHT-PROVOKING STORIES BY JESUS

:: AWKWARD MOMENTS BETWEEN JESUS AND HIS OPPONENTS

:: DIFFICULT MOMENTS BETWEEN JESUS AND HIS FOLLOWERS

:: AWE-INSPIRING MIRACLES THAT HEAL AND CHANGE PEOPLE

:: THE WONDERS OF FULFILLED PROPHECIES

:: UNFORGETTABLE CHARACTERS AROUND JESUS

Matthew

The Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah

1 This is the genealogy^a of Jesus the Messiah^b the son of David, the son of Abraham:

- ² Abraham was the father of Isaac,
Isaac the father of Jacob,
Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,
³ Judah the father of Perez and Zerah,
whose mother was Tamar,
Perez the father of Hezron,
Hezron the father of Ram,
⁴ Ram the father of Amminadab,
Amminadab the father of Nahshon,
Nahshon the father of Salmon,
⁵ Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab,
Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth,
Obed the father of Jesse,
⁶ and Jesse the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,

- ⁷ Solomon the father of Rehoboam,
Rehoboam the father of Abijah,
Abijah the father of Asa,
⁸ Asa the father of Jehoshaphat,
Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram,
Jehoram the father of Uzziah,
⁹ Uzziah the father of Jotham,
Jotham the father of Ahaz,
Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,
¹⁰ Hezekiah the father of Manasseh,
Manasseh the father of Amon,
Amon the father of Josiah,
¹¹ and Josiah the father of Jeconiah^c
and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon.

- ¹² After the exile to Babylon:
Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel,
Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,

- ¹³ Zerubbabel the father of Abihud,
Abihud the father of Eliakim,
Eliakim the father of Azor,
¹⁴ Azor the father of Zadok,
Zadok the father of Akim,
Akim the father of Elihud,
¹⁵ Elihud the father of Eleazar,
Eleazar the father of Matthan,
Matthan the father of Jacob,
¹⁶ and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.

¹⁷ Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.

Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about^d: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet^e did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,^f because he will save his people from their sins."

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"^g (which means "God with us").

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the

^a 1 Or is an account of the origin ^b 1 Or Jesus Christ. Messiah (Hebrew) and Christ (Greek) both mean Anointed One; also in verse 18. ^c 11 That is, Jehoiachin; also in verse 12 ^d 18 Or The origin of Jesus the Messiah was like this ^e 19 Or was a righteous man and ^f 21 Jesus is the Greek form of Joshua, which means the LORD saves. ^g 23 Isaiah 7:14

angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

The Magi Visit the Messiah

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi^a from the east came to Jerusalem ²and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”^b

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

The Escape to Egypt

¹³When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell

you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

¹⁴So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”^c

¹⁶When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. ¹⁷Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸“A voice is heard in Ramah,
weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children
and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more.”^d

The Return to Nazareth

¹⁹After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt ²⁰and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.”

²¹So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, ²³and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

3 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea ²and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.’”^e

⁴John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist.

^a 1 Traditionally *wise men* ^b 6 Micah 5:2,4 ^c 15 Hosea 11:1 ^d 18 Jer. 31:15 ^e 3 Isaiah 40:3

His food was locusts and wild honey.⁵ People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan.⁶ Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with^a water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with^a the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

The Baptism of Jesus

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. ¹⁴But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”

¹⁵Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.

¹⁶As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness

4 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted^b by the devil. ²After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

⁴Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall

not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’^c”

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶“If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written:

“‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’^d”

⁷Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’^e”

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹“All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

¹⁰Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’^f”

¹¹Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Jesus Begins to Preach

¹²When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali — ¹⁴to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

¹⁵“Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles — ¹⁶the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.”^g

¹⁷From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

Jesus Calls His First Disciples

¹⁸As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and

^a 11 *Or in* ^b 1 The Greek for *tempted* can also mean *tested*. ^c 4 Deut. 8:3 ^d 6 Psalm 91:11,12
^e 7 Deut. 6:16 ^f 10 Deut. 6:13 ^g 16 Isaiah 9:1,2

A MOMENT OF GRACE

We have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will. . . .—Colossians 1:9 (NIV)

I felt it was a major answer to prayer when our son John received a job offer with an insurance company during his final semester in college. It wasn't ideal, but with the economy as bad as it was, it seemed wise to say "yes." The day before the deadline to accept the offer, John phoned me saying, "I keep wondering if maybe I went to more interviews, I might find a job that's a better fit for me."

I shook my head. *Just when you think your prayer work is over and everything is all settled, it's time to pray again.* I hung up the phone, got up from my computer, and went to pray all over again about John's decision.

I had been praying for about five minutes when the phone rang again. It was John. "I just received another offer! This one is in telecom."

"I was just praying about your decision," I said.

"Thanks for keeping up the prayers, Mom. It helps."

That second job offer changed John's thinking and encouraged him to keep looking. He went to more interviews and, in the end, accepted the fourth job offer he received, which turned out to be a great match.

As for me, I learned not to stop praying even when a solution appears on the horizon. You never know what other opportunities God might be sending your way if you pray one more time.

Dear Father, help me to keep on praying for Your guidance. Amen.

—Karen Barber

Digging Deeper

Matthew 4:1–11

We hope you enjoyed this small sample of the inspiration and comfort that awaits you in the *Walking in Grace Devotional Bible*.



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