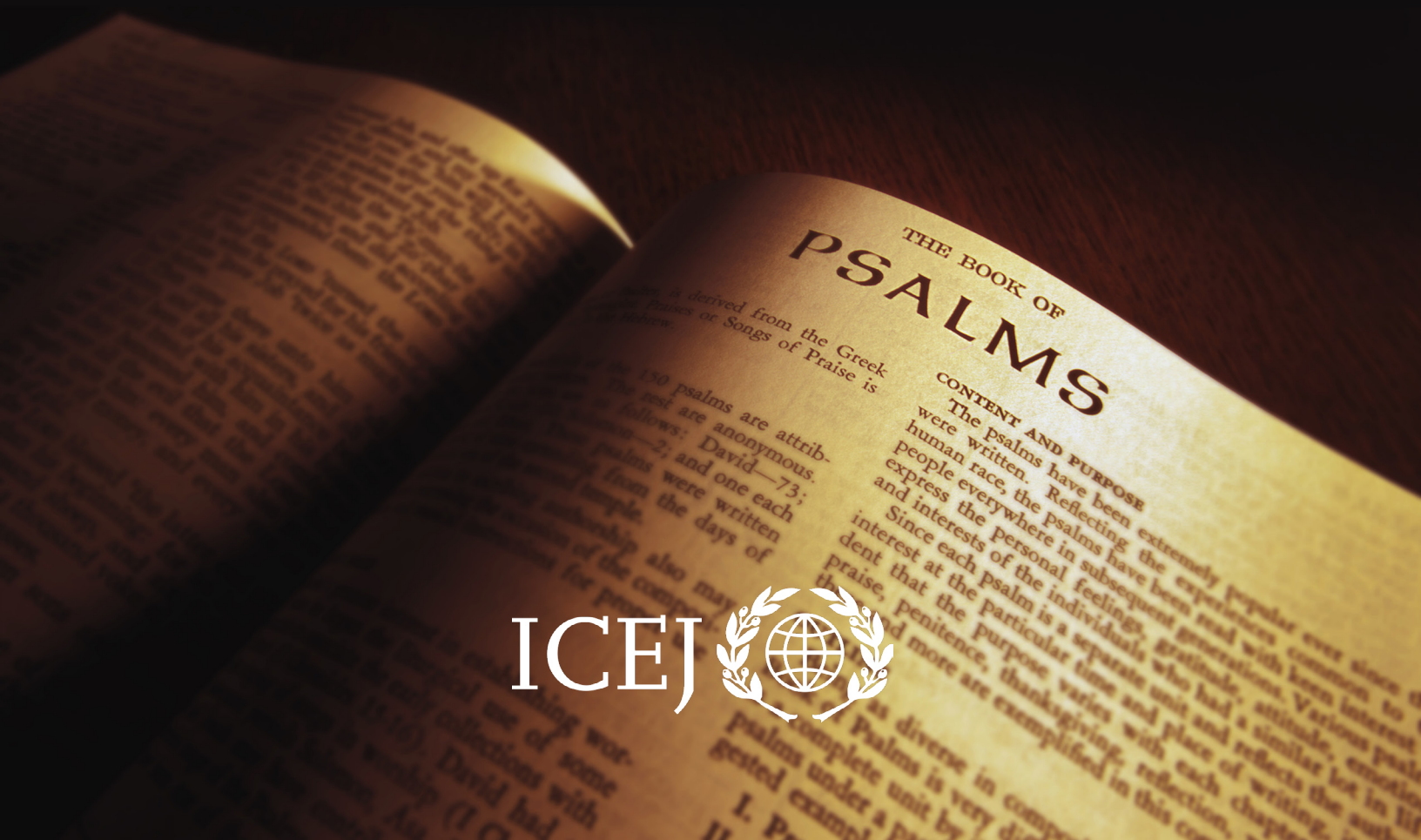
MORE THAN A VERSE A DAY

A 10-DAY DEVOTIONAL JOURNEY
THROUGH SCRIPTURE, STORY, AND PLACE



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More Than a Verse a Day

A 10-Day Devotional Journey through Scripture, Story, and Place

A devotional journey to deepen your love for God's Word and see its story come alive

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Many Christians long to understand the Bible more deeply but struggle to connect the dots between its stories, places, and promises. In this 10-day devotional, adapted from *Encounter the 3D Bible* from the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, you'll be invited to step into the rich historical, cultural, and spiritual context of Scripture. Each day will help you not only grasp the big picture of God's redemptive story but see your own place in it.

Whether you're a new believer or a seasoned student of the Word, these 10 days are just the beginning of a Bible-reading journey that can truly change your life!

Day 1: Why the Bible Still Changes Lives

Scripture: Psalm 119:105

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

The Bible is more than a book; it's a living encounter with the God who created the universe. For many believers, the Bible can feel overwhelming—a big book filled with hard names, ancient customs, and dense theology. But underneath it all is the voice of the Holy Spirit, breathing life and light into every verse. Psalm 119:105 reminds us that God’s Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. When we open the Bible, we aren't just reading words—we're meeting the Living Word, Jesus Christ.

When Susan Michael first studied the Bible in Israel, she described the transformation as moving from black-and-white to full color. Her eyes were opened not just to the historical setting but to the deep personal and spiritual relevance of each passage. The same can happen to you.

Reflection:

- What keeps you from reading the Bible more often?
- Have you ever experienced Scripture "coming alive"? What was that like?

Prayer:
Lord, help me see Your Word with fresh eyes. Open my heart to hear Your voice as I begin this 10-day journey. Let Your light guide my steps.

Day 2: Reading the Bible with the Right Lens

Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:16

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

All Scripture is God-breathed. That means every verse, every story, every genealogy has divine fingerprints on it. But if we don't know how to read the Bible, we can misinterpret or even misuse what God is saying. Susan Michael outlines three levels of reading: the inspirational (devotional), the doctrinal (study), and the 3D level—the cultural, historical, and geographical context that brings the Bible to life.

Most of us stop at the inspirational level. We look for a verse to help us get through the day—and that’s good! But there is so much more. Imagine reading a love letter from someone without knowing who they are or where they live. That’s what it’s like to read Scripture without understanding its world.

Reflection:

- Which level of Bible reading are you most familiar with?

- What would it look like to dig deeper?

Prayer:
God, I want more than just inspiration. Teach me to study and understand Your Word so that I may know You more deeply.

Day 3: From Genesis to Revelation—One Seamless Story

Scripture: Genesis 12:3; Galatians 3:8

“I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

"And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, 'In you all the nations shall be blessed.'"

The Bible isn't a collection of unrelated stories—it’s one grand narrative. God’s plan of redemption begins in Genesis and ends in the return of Jesus as described in Revelation. Abraham, Moses, David—they were all part of the same story that leads to the cross.

When you understand that the Bible has one author and one overarching purpose, everything changes. Galatians

3:8 tells us that the gospel was preached to Abraham when God promised that all nations would be blessed through him. That blessing was Jesus.

Reflection:

- How does knowing the Bible is one story change how you read it?
- Where do you see Jesus in the Old Testament?

Prayer:
Jesus, thank You for being the center of Scripture. Help me to see You from Genesis to Revelation.

Day 4: The People of the Bible Are Real—and So Are You

Scripture: Hebrews 11:1–2

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony."

Faith isn't just believing in what you can't see—it's stepping into the same story that Abraham, Sarah, Moses, and Ruth lived. These weren't fictional characters; they were real people, in real places, with real struggles. And yet they were remembered not for their perfection but for their faith.

When we see the Bible as history, it becomes a mirror. We realize that the same God who called Gideon, spoke to Elijah, and raised up Esther is still speaking today. And He's writing your name into the story.

Reflection:

- Which biblical character do you relate to most?
- Where is God inviting you to trust Him by faith today?

Prayer:
Lord, I believe You are still calling ordinary people into Your extraordinary plan. Write my name into Your story.

Day 5: Why Israel Matters to Your Bible

Scripture: Deuteronomy 30:4

"If any of you are driven out to the farthest parts under heaven, from there the Lord your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you."

Devotional:
Many Christians see Israel as a distant place with ancient history. But the Bible sees it as the epicenter of God's promises. From Abraham to the modern State of Israel, God's covenant with His people has never failed.

Susan Michael describes visiting a 4,000-year-old gate in Dan, where Abraham may have walked. That kind of connection grounds the Bible in reality. And it reminds us that the fulfillment of prophecy is still unfolding in our time.

Understanding Israel isn't about politics. It's about promise. It's about watching God be faithful to His Word.

Reflection:

- How does seeing Israel as central to the Bible affect your faith?
- Have you ever considered praying for Israel?

Prayer:
God of Abraham, I praise You for Your covenant-keeping nature. Deepen my understanding of Israel and her role in Your redemptive plan.

Day 6: Understanding the Old Testament without Confusion

Scripture: Luke 24:27

"And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself."

It’s tempting for modern Christians to skip the Old Testament, assuming it’s outdated or hard to understand. But the truth is, without it, we miss the foundation of the gospel. When Jesus taught His disciples, He didn’t start fresh—He started with Moses and the Prophets, showing how they pointed to Him.

The Old Testament is rich with foreshadows: Abraham’s near-sacrifice of Isaac mirrors God offering His Son. The Passover lamb in Exodus is fulfilled in Christ, our spotless Lamb. The tabernacle, the feasts, the prophecies—all foreshadow the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

When we embrace the Old Testament as part of one seamless story, our understanding of Jesus deepens. He didn’t appear out of nowhere—He was promised from the beginning.

Reflection:
What is your favorite Old Testament verse? How does it help you in your daily life?

Prayer:
Lord, open my eyes to see Jesus in all of Scripture. Help me love the Old Testament and find You in its pages.

Day 7: Unlocking Scripture through Context

Scripture: Proverbs 4:7

“Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding.”

Reading the Bible in “3D” means understanding the world behind the words. Context matters—historical, cultural, and geographical. For example, knowing that Jesus healed a man in the Decapolis (a pagan region) gives new meaning to His miracles—it shows He came for *everyone*, not just the Jews.

Even something as simple as a shepherd or a fig tree carries deeper meaning in ancient Israel. The more we learn about the Bible’s original context, the clearer its message becomes. It’s not about becoming a scholar—it’s about approaching Scripture with curiosity and reverence.

The Bible isn’t fictional or mythological. It’s grounded in real places, real people, and a real God who acts in history.

Reflection:
Have you ever misunderstood a verse because you didn’t know the background? What’s one context fact you’ve learned that brought the Bible to life?

Prayer:
Father, give me a hunger to understand the context of

Your Word. Help me read it faithfully and accurately, always pointing to You.

Day 8: The Word of God Is Trustworthy

Scripture: Isaiah 40:8

“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.”

Can we really trust a book written thousands of years ago? Yes—and here’s why: the Bible is the most well-preserved text in human history. Jewish scribes passed it down with meticulous accuracy, treating every letter as sacred. The Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered in the 20th century, confirmed that today’s Old Testament matches what was written over 2,000 years ago.

God not only inspired His Word—He preserved it. And beyond the manuscript evidence, the Bible proves true through prophecy, archaeology, and its transformational power in countless lives.

God’s promises have never failed. If He was faithful then, He will be faithful now.

Reflection:
When have you personally experienced the reliability of God’s Word? What doubts do you still wrestle with?

Prayer:
God, thank You for preserving Your Word through the ages. Strengthen my faith and help me build my life on Your unshakable truth.

Day 9: The Bible Is More Relevant Than Ever

Scripture: Hebrews 4:12

“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

The Bible isn’t just an ancient book—it’s *alive*. It speaks into our time with wisdom for our world. In an age of uncertainty, Scripture brings clarity. In chaos, it brings peace. In despair, it brings hope.

The same Spirit who inspired the Bible is at work in you today, helping you understand and apply it. That’s why you can read the same verse at different times and find new meaning—it’s God speaking personally to your heart.

And as culture shifts and morality blurs, the Bible remains a firm foundation. Its truth doesn’t change. That’s good news in a world of compromise.

Reflection:
How has God's Word spoken directly to you in recent days? In what area of your life do you most need biblical clarity?

Prayer:
Holy Spirit, breathe life into my Bible reading. Make Your Word alive and active in me today and every day.

Day 10: Your Journey Is Just Beginning

Scripture: John 6:63

"*It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life."*

You've spent the last 10 days walking through the Bible with a new perspective. Maybe you've felt the spark of something deeper—an invitation to go beyond surface reading and into true encounter.

But this is only the beginning.

The Bible is not a book to conquer—it's a relationship to cultivate. Each chapter is a doorway to the heart of God. Each verse is a step further into the life He's calling you to. Whether you've read the Bible for years or just started, God has more to show you.

So, don’t stop here. Keep going. Go deeper.

Reflection:
What has God shown you over these 10 days? What’s your next step in engaging with His Word?

Prayer:
Jesus, thank You for revealing Yourself through the Word. Keep me hungry for more. Lead me into deeper truth and deeper love for You.

Go Deeper. Encounter More.

If this devotional stirred something in you, we want to bless you with two powerful resources that will deepen your faith:

📖 **The full PDF of *Encounter the 3D Bible***
🧭 **A matching 8-day study guide**

These are our gifts to you when you support the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ) with a donation of *any amount*.

ICEJ’s work blesses Israel and spreads the truth of God’s Word across the globe. Your gift equips you and others to stand with God’s purposes—and understand His Word like never before.

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