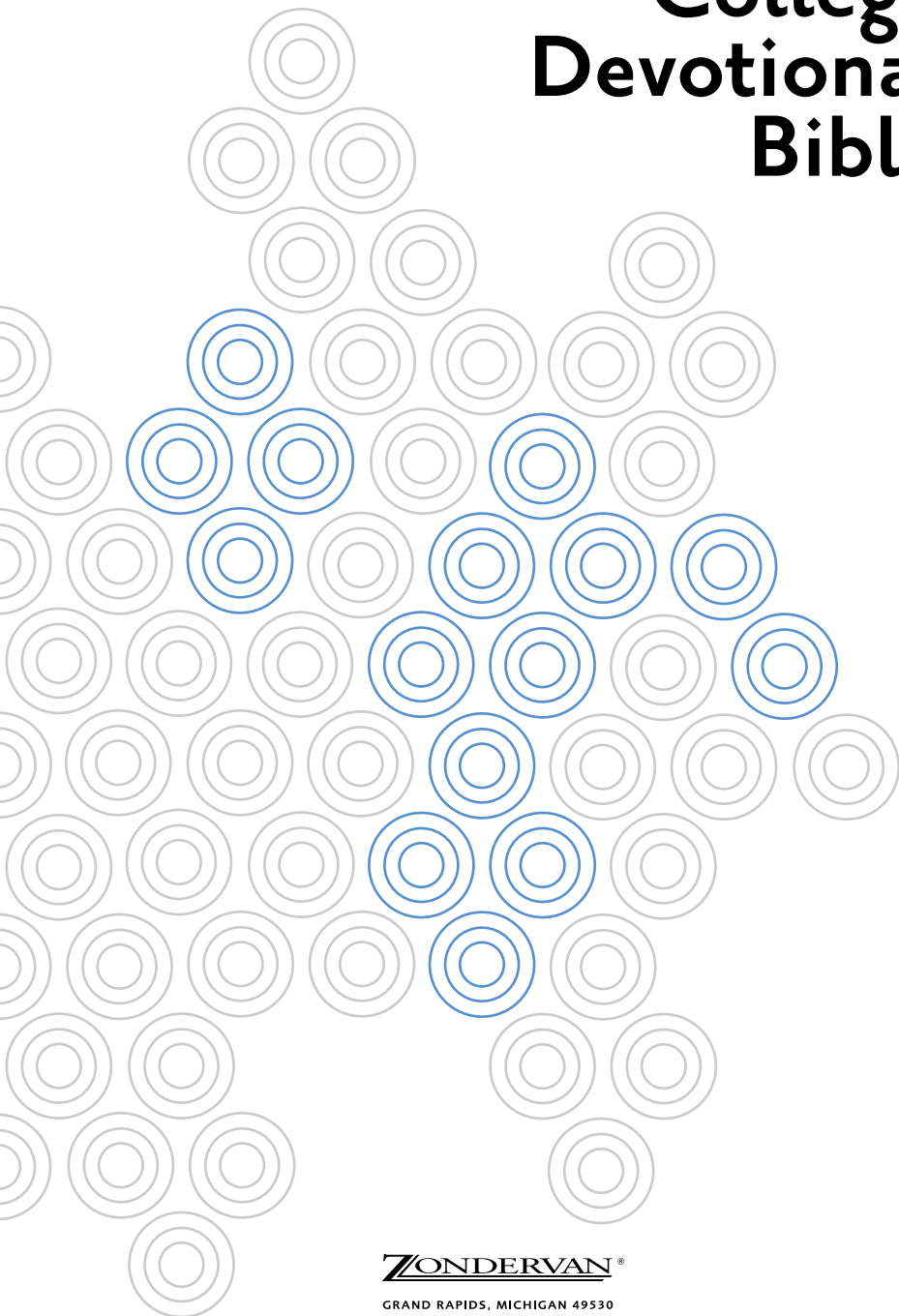


TODAY'S NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

College Devotional Bible



ZONDERVAN[®]

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old testament

AUTHOR: Moses

DATE: During the 1400s B.C., while the Israelites were traveling in the desert

THEME: God interacts with us in all we experience — love, loss, broken relationships, real life.

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 seasons 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 and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to

its kind. And God saw that it was good.²² God 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.”²³ And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

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

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make human beings 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.”

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

²⁸ God 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.”

²⁹ Then 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.³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the

breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

³¹ God 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.

² By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.³ Then 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

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

⁵ Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth^b 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,⁶ but streams^c came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground.⁷ Then the LORD God formed a man^d from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

⁸ Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed.⁹ The 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.

¹⁰ A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters.¹¹ The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the

^a 26 Probable reading of the original Hebrew text (see Syriac); Masoretic Text *the earth* ^b 5 Or *land*; also in verse 6
^c 6 Or *mist* ^d 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 Gen. 2:20).

new freedom

On the sixth day of creation, God creates human beings in his own image from the dust, breathing life into their nostrils.

READ GENESIS 1:27; 2:7

These simple passages affirm that we were created in the very likeness of the Creator himself, and therefore—even in our humanness—we are of great worth. The following story demonstrates the miraculous reach of sacrificial love and service when that worth is recognized in every person.

In 1718, Rebecca Protten, daughter of a white father and an African mother, was born into slavery in the sugar colony on the Caribbean island of St. Thomas. Her love affair with freedom almost certainly began when she dedicated herself to Christ as a young girl. Then her owners set her free, and she became part of the tiny minority of free Africans in the Caribbean at that time. Most of her people labored under grueling conditions on the harsh, and often deadly, sugar plantations.

Though free, Rebecca found few opportunities to exercise that freedom in the racially divided West Indies. She longed to aid her brothers and sisters in the fields, but she didn't know how to help without arousing suspicion and risking arrest.

Then one morning, while walking along the dockside, she met Fredrich Martin, who had just been sent by the Moravian church to preach the gospel specifically to the island's black slave population. He was not the first. Two men had come earlier, intending to become slaves themselves in order to speak from a platform of equality and humility. To their great disappointment, they learned that white men couldn't choose to become slaves, no matter how noble their cause.

Quickly recognizing their passion for Christ and commitment to freedom for all people, Rebecca chose to work alongside the Moravians. Together they spread the word about the love of Christ throughout the Caribbean. Her marriage to one of the missionaries upset many people—interracial marriages in the tense atmosphere of slave-versus-free rarely happened. But Rebecca recognized God's love for people of every nation; she saw each face as the image of her Savior and each individual as an opportunity to serve her Lord.

- What does it mean to you to have been created in God's image? How does it affect how you live your life?
- What areas of your life have been corrupted by a faulty view of human worth?
- It is easy to put a judgment value on the worth of others. What can you do to change your thinking when you start to think like that? How can you begin to see each person as a bearer of God's image?

entire land of Havilah, where there is gold.¹² (The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin^a and onyx are also there.)¹³ The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush.^b
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.¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of 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.²⁰ So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

But for Adam^c no suitable helper was found.²¹ So 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^d and then closed up the place with flesh.²² Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib^e 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.”

²⁴For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

²⁵The man 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,³ but 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 of 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.⁷ Then 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.⁹ But 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.”

^a 12 Or *good*; *pearls* ^b 13 Possibly southeast Mesopotamia

^c 20 Or *the man*

^d 21 Or *took part of the man's side*

^e 22 Or *part*

the constant enemy

Satan (in the guise of a serpent) tempts Adam and Eve to sin and becomes the enemy of the human race. God draws the battle lines by cursing the serpent and placing judgment on Adam and Eve.

READ GENESIS 3

Believers have been warned: We have an enemy who will stop at nothing to destroy our relationship with Christ. Satan is especially masterful at exploiting vulnerability. He kicks us when we are down, tempts us when we are weak and overinflates our egos when we are strong.

Andy sat in the hospital chapel, trying to make sense of the doctor's words: "We've done all we can do . . . Her kidneys are shutting down . . . Most patients in her condition live less than a week . . . At least she won't be in pain."

How do you translate that into language a seven-year-old, a five-year-old and a four-year-old can understand? he wondered. He tried to picture the looks on his kids' faces when they found out Mommy wouldn't be coming home from the hospital.

Andy's thoughts were interrupted by his father-in-law's voice. "You're not in here praying again, are you?" He spat out the word *praying* like it had a bitter taste.

"Just thinking," Andy replied.

"Good," his father-in-law said. "Maybe you're coming to your senses."

Andy knew where the conversation was going. His father-in-law was ready to vent. And his crosshairs were on Andy and every other "weak-minded" person who used God and Christianity as a "crutch."

Please, God, not now, Andy silently prayed. *Make him stop.*

But his father-in-law didn't stop. "All I've heard about for the past three years is how many people were praying for my daughter. And how good God is. And how he takes care of his people. She believed that and look where it got her."

A tear rolled down Andy's cheek. But he said nothing. The pain was too great.

His father-in-law's voice softened. "I know you mean well. But your kids need you to be grounded now. You don't have time for this nonsense anymore."

- Although Adam and Eve received their orders straight from God, when the serpent challenged Eve, she wavered in her faith in God and became vulnerable to Satan's temptation. Do you think Satan was attacking Andy's vulnerable faith through the words of his father-in-law?
- Why does God allow Satan to inflict such emotional and spiritual damage on his people?
- What areas of vulnerability in your life has Satan exploited in the past? What steps can you take to prepare for Satan's attacks in the future?

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 pain 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 from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat of it,’

“Cursed is the ground because of you;
through painful toil you will eat of 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 them 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.

CAIN AND ABEL

4 Adam^c made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain.^f She said, “With the help of the LORD I have brought forth^g a man.”² Later she gave birth to his brother Abel.

Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil.³ In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD.⁴ And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering,⁵ but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

⁶Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast?⁷ If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”

⁸Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.”^h While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

⁹Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?”

“I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?”

¹⁰The LORD said, “What have you done?”

^a 15 Or seed ^b 15 Or strike ^c 20,1 Or The man ^d 20 Eve probably means living. ^e 24 Or placed in front ^f 1 Cain sounds like the Hebrew for brought forth or acquired. ^g 1 Or have acquired ^h 8 Samaritan Pentateuch, Septuagint, Vulgate and Syriac; Masoretic Text does not have “Let’s go out to the field.”

Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground. ¹¹Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹²When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth."

¹³Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is more than I can bear. ¹⁴Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me."

¹⁵But the LORD said to him, "Not so^a; anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over." Then the LORD put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him. ¹⁶So Cain went out from the LORD's presence and lived in the land of Nod,^b east of Eden.

¹⁷Cain made love to his wife, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Enoch. Cain was then building a city, and he named it after his son Enoch. ¹⁸To Enoch was born Irad, and Irad was the father of Mehujael, and Mehujael was the father of Methushael, and Methushael was the father of Lamech.

¹⁹Lamech married two women, one named Adah and the other Zillah. ²⁰Adah gave birth to Jabal; he was the father of those who live in tents and raise livestock. ²¹His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all who play stringed instruments and pipes. ²²Zillah also had a son, Tubal-Cain, who forged all kinds of tools out of^c bronze and iron. Tubal-Cain's sister was Naamah.

²³Lamech said to his wives,

"Adah and Zillah, listen to me;
wives of Lamech, hear my words.
I have killed a man for wounding me,
a young man for injuring me.

²⁴If Cain is avenged seven times,
then Lamech seventy-seven times."

²⁵Adam made love to his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth,^d saying, "God has granted me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed him." ²⁶Seth also had a son, and he named him Enosh.

At that time people began to call on^e the name of the LORD.

FROM ADAM TO NOAH

5 This is the written account of Adam's family line.

When God created human beings, he made them in the likeness of God. ²He created them male and female and blessed them. And when they were created, he called them "human beings."

³When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth. ⁴After Seth was born, Adam lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. ⁵Altogether, Adam lived a total of 930 years, and then he died.

⁶When Seth had lived 105 years, he became the father^f of Enosh. ⁷After he became the father of Enosh, Seth lived 807 years and had other sons and daughters. ⁸Altogether, Seth lived a total of 912 years, and then he died.

⁹When Enosh had lived 90 years, he became the father of Kenan. ¹⁰After he became the father of Kenan, Enosh lived 815 years and had other sons and daughters. ¹¹Altogether, Enosh lived a total of 905 years, and then he died.

¹²When Kenan had lived 70 years, he became the father of Mahalalel. ¹³After he became the father of Mahalalel, Kenan lived 840 years and had other sons and daughters. ¹⁴Altogether, Kenan lived a total of 910 years, and then he died.

^a 15 Septuagint, Vulgate and Syriac; Hebrew *Very well* ^b 16 *Nod* means *wandering* (see verses 12 and 14).

^c 22 *Or who instructed all who work in* ^d 25 Seth probably means *granted*. ^e 26 *Or to proclaim* ^f 6 *Father* may mean *ancestor*; also in verses 7-26.