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

My beloved,

DEATH IS NOT THE END—

it's just the beginning!

DR. J. VERNON MCGEE



THRU the **BIBLE**



WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD

JESUS CRIED FOR YOU

Dr. J. Vernon McGee



This article is an excerpt from **“The God Who Weeps: Discover the Love and Compassion of Jesus Christ.”** You can download the full digital booklet here.

Scripture says God laughs; Scripture also says God weeps. The Gospel writers record three times the Lord Jesus Christ wept, tears revealing the heart of God. God in tears? That’s a thought to ponder. It’s indeed startling. Let’s look at these three occasions in His ministry when Jesus wept.

TEARS OF SYMPATHY

The first time Scripture records Jesus crying is illustrated in the briefest verse in the Bible. You likely already know it. It’s so familiar that it may have lost its impact. May I say to you that it is a somber verse, a solemn verse, a wonderful verse:

Jesus wept. —John 11:35

It happened on the way to the grave of Lazarus. Friends of the family were mourning with Lazarus’ two sisters, Mary and Martha, who were weeping. When our Lord joined them, He wept. His tears covered His cheeks, and His body shook with emotion.

He knew He was going to raise Lazarus from the dead, nevertheless Jesus wept in sympathy—sympathy for those He loved, because death had intruded into the family circle.

Although death is the bitter fruit of sin, it doesn’t mean God doesn’t sympathize. Jesus’ tears reveal how God feels at a funeral. Never has there been a coffin with a lifeless form in it, never has there been an open grave, but there stands an unseen Mourner who is the Lord Jesus Christ.

We sometimes hear it said that Christians ought not to weep over death. But Scripture tells us we are to weep *with hope*. (See 1 Thessalonians 4:13.) The child of God has a blessed hope. We shed tears in view of that hope, knowing someday we will be reunited with our loved ones. May I say to you, God sympathizes at the time of death. The Lord Jesus took upon Himself human flesh to let you and me know that God sympathizes. He shed genuine tears of sympathy to let us know how God feels. I never have stood at an open casket without that thought in mind.

TEARS OF SORROW

In the Gospel of Luke we see another time Jesus cried. Luke 19:41 says, “Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it.”

The background to this scene is actually the so-called Triumphant Entry. Jesus had spent the night in Bethany, and then He came around the hill that Sunday morning. As He did, the city broke into view and Jesus wept over Jerusalem. Luke’s language here is very strong. Literally, it says He *wailed!* He was heartbroken over the city that would reject and crucify Him.

He was weeping because of the severity of judgment that was coming on that city. This time His tears are the tears of sorrow—sorrow because of the agonizing suffering those in Jerusalem would experience at the time of their judgment. We have only to follow history a few years, to 70 AD, to see why He wept. Roman soldiers, under the command of Titus, utterly destroyed that city.

No wonder Jesus wept. Oh, my friend, Jesus shed His blood to make your salvation possible. He sheds His tears when you reject Him. He weeps because it is not His will that any should perish. Oh, how wonderful He is!

TEARS OF SUFFERING

Now, the third and last incident was in the Garden of Gethsemane. (See Hebrews 5:7.) Our Lord prayed there, and He also cried there. His cries pierced the night air like the cry of a wounded animal.

Jesus prayed to be saved *out of* death, that is, by resurrection. He looked beyond His death to resurrection morning! I don't think He had any fear of death whatsoever, because death would not be the victor. (See 1 Corinthians 15:55.)

The prayer of our Lord in the garden was answered—He was raised out of death. On that cross He who knew no sin was made sin for us. “It pleased the LORD to bruise Him...” (Isaiah 53:10), and He dealt with His beloved Son as He must deal with every sinner who stands before Him on his own merits. Jesus prayed that He might be delivered out of death and all that death means.

Unfortunately, in the present hour most people are not afraid to die—nor have they been. The pagan world actually teaches that it's a fine thing to die. There are a great many lost people today who seem not to be afraid of death at all. May I say to you, the liberal has told them God is dead, that there is no afterlife, that death ends it all, and that the grave is the final resting-place. Therefore, when life becomes intolerable down here, multitudes of people choose death, thinking it is the end. My beloved, death is not the end—it's just the beginning!

GOD LOVES YOU AND GAVE HIS SON,
JESUS CHRIST, TO DIE FOR YOU.

*It's so beautiful,
it should make us weep.*

The death the Lord Jesus endured was not an ordinary death. It's a mystery none of us will ever be able to penetrate. On the day of Jesus' crucifixion God placed a mantle of darkness over that cross for three hours, so no one can describe the sufferings of Christ when He was made sin for you and for me. It's as if the Holy Spirit pulled down a veil and said, “*This is too horrid; this is too terrible. You cannot look inside.*” So our feeble attempts to picture it are a travesty. His sufferings on the cross are not described anywhere in the Bible.

Only this can be said: There were tears and there was blood. They are silent but eloquent symbols of how God feels. They are real and genuine. His tears were not make-believe tears; His blood was real blood! Both were shed for you. Blood for your redemption and tears if you reject Him.

Some say you've got to shed tears to be saved—tears of repentance. But repentance is not shedding tears. Repentance (*metanoia* in Greek) means a change of mind. You're going in one direction, then you turn around and go in the opposite direction. If turning to God and away from sin produces tears, well and good, but just be sure, my beloved, that you turn around.

God loves you and gave His Son, Jesus Christ, to die for you. It's so beautiful, it should make us weep.

MY TURN

A practical and compassionate way you can be like Jesus is to weep with and for people. Ask the Lord to give you eyes to see the hurting people in your path. Then when given the opportunity, be with them as they go through their hardship. Perhaps they've lost someone or are suffering in any number of ways. Pray with them, cry with them—Jesus did both. Just be with them. You can express your confidence in God and the comfort of God at the same time.



THE POWER BEHIND GLOBAL OUTREACH



Steve Shwetz
THRU the BIBLE Announcer and Board Chairman

Someone recently asked me why they should join the [WorldPrayerToday](#) Team. I gave them this threefold answer:

- 1 Psalm 150 tells us to “praise [the Lord] for His mighty acts.” Do you agree with me that nothing is more amazing than a person (like us) who is dead in their trespasses and sins who then turns to Jesus Christ and is given eternal life? (See Ephesians 2:1.) This is amazing and one of God’s mighty deeds. If you’re on the World Prayer Team, you get a front row seat to these testimonies in almost every World Prayer Today email.

If you want to reinvigorate the praise in your prayer life, join the World Prayer Team!

- 2 Do you believe God is at work today? Do you think He could use you for His purposes? As a Christian, nothing is more encouraging to me than to see God’s hand moving in and through a ministry He has allowed me to play a part in. As a World Prayer Today member, we all play a part in what God does through the ministry of THRU the BIBLE. He does this to bring glory to Himself, and it’s thrilling to watch.

If you want to be encouraged that God is still active, calling people to Himself, join the World Prayer Team.

- 3 One of the last recorded things we hear Jesus say before returning to heaven is that we should go and make disciples of all nations (see Matthew 28:19). THRU the BIBLE is doing this on a global scale in over 130 languages and growing.

If you want to be an active participant in fulfilling Jesus’ great commission, join the World Prayer Team.

Your time investment is minimal; your heart investment will yield much fruit. Sounds like a great way to put yourself in the path where God is moving and blessing our generation.

Here are just a handful of emails from World Prayer Team members on why they invest their lives in prayer:

I am so honored to be on the World Prayer Team here in America and around the world. I thank God for Thru the Bible programs in areas where Christians are persecuted for following Jesus our Savior. They have to worship in hiding and are afraid to witness because of unbelievers in their families and governments that disagree with them. They are so appreciative of Thru the Bible, which may be their only source of God’s Word. I will continue to be a prayer warrior on the World Prayer Team. –Sarah



I love hearing each day on the Bible Bus from the many varied countries and people groups throughout the world. Their stories of what the Lord has done in their lives through the broadcasts are inspiring and encourage me to continue to pray for each language and group. We have it so easy here in the USA and easily forget how dangerous and difficult it is simply to follow Christ and learn from His Word for our brethren in other lands. This is why the World Prayer Team is such a vital ministry. We continue to pray in faith, knowing this is the Lord’s doing and it is marvelous in His eyes! –Denise in Riverside, CA

I have been on the Bible Bus for over 10 years, and what has excited me is how there are people in lands that don’t fully let their people express the love of Jesus Christ, yet the Bible Bus is able to reach many with the life changing love of Christ. In our country people don’t realize how fortunate we are. May each of us give a little more so the Bible Bus will be able reach many more. God bless each listener. –Bill

The letters, phone calls, and reports you forward to us are the most encouraging items to continue praying for God’s Word to penetrate hearts and minds for salvation and growth in our Lord Jesus Christ. Through this ministry and others His Word reaches where we cannot go, except with prayer. Thank you! –Carole



LET GOD'S WORD GUARD AND GUIDE YOU

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. –Philippians 4:6-7

When negative thoughts or recurring fears keep you up at night, do you have a specific Bible verse that helps you get through? Perhaps Psalm 27:1 or 46:1? A listener in Ghana tells us how Philippians 4:6-7 is changing the way he thinks about fear:

“When I hear of violent happenings or sickness like Covid-19, I get fearful. I almost become paralyzed and don’t know what to do. But as I study with you, I have learned that these things happened even in ancient or biblical days. And also, they are meant to happen before the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Recently I have been grateful for the teaching about trusting God and letting His peace be our confidence. As a believer I am learning to

remain steadfast in Him and not tremble. Please pray that I will not be shaken.”

What a great request. Let’s pray Philippians 4:6-7 for all of us on the Bible Bus.

Father, it’s so easy to worry, when instead we should pray. Thank You for Your Word that reminds us that when we are overcome by anxiety, all we have to do is talk to You and ask for Your peace and it will be ours. We’re grateful that You are a guard and guide when we are afraid and alone. In the name of Jesus we pray, amen.

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.



THRUthe**BIBLE**

A WORD FROM GREGG HARRIS

Numbers

I’m a numbers guy. I hear an idea or a proposal and already I’m doing the math in my head. It’s fun. But the plusses and minuses are not the whole picture. Dr. McGee knew that and so, from day one, THRU the BIBLE hasn’t been tied to numbers as the primary way decisions are made. That’s why you don’t often hear us talk about the number of people impacted in a country or even more basic, the numbers needed to do specific projects, etc. **Dr. McGee called it “the sin of statistics” and warned against putting confidence in numbers rather than in the Lord.**

Yes, of course, we are fully aware of financial matters, feeling the weight of stewarding well the resources God entrusts to THRU the BIBLE, but we just don’t trust numbers to paint the whole picture.

For that, we rely on two indicators:

Your stories and testimonies about how God is at work in your life.

Your partnership in prayer and support.

These two indicators influence our decisions more than algorithms or views, likes, or shares.

The truth is, we can’t know how far our impact goes and whether it changes anything for anyone on the receiving end. **We must trust God to be faithful to His promise that His Word will accomplish what He intends it to do** (Isaiah 55:11).

That’s a very safe investment, don’t you think?

Grateful for your partnership,



Gregg Harris
THRU the BIBLE, President

J E S U S I N *Deuteronomy*

WITH DR. J. VERNON MCGEE

If we could ask Jesus what His favorite book of the Old Testament was, it's likely He would name Deuteronomy as one of His top three. He quoted Deuteronomy at critical times—specifically in the wilderness when He was resisting Satan's temptations. He also quoted Deuteronomy when He summed up the Law and the prophets and taught us to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves. And when He quoted the ten commandments, when discussing divorce, when telling us that we are to live by the Word of God, and to keep His Word.

If you remember, Deuteronomy was Moses' swan song—his final lecture to a new generation about to enter the Promised Land. Moses spoke of a deliverer that was to come in the future. Moses had played the mediator between God and them for 40 years, but he prophesied of another mediator, a perfect Prophet, still to come. **He called people to listen to this new mediator; and just as they learned to listen to him, Moses called them to listen to this final messenger, the Lord Jesus Christ.**

"I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him."
—Deuteronomy 18:18

Now some ask why God doesn't reveal Himself today.

My friend, in the person of Jesus Christ, God put the period at the end of the sentence. God wrote *finis* at the end of the book. God hasn't any more to say to this world than He's said in Jesus Christ! And we're to listen to Him. He has the final Word! The Lord Jesus Christ is God's ultimate, God's full, and God's final revelation for man.

During the Lord Jesus' time on earth, He did His Father's will—and He finished all of His assignments, I said everything that You wanted Me to say; I've said it all! If God spoke out of heaven at this very moment, He wouldn't say anything that He had not already said. He'd just repeat Himself, because He said all He intends to say to you and me in the person of Christ.

WHY STUDY DEUTERONOMY?

Join in the studies on
THRU the BIBLE APRIL 27—MAY 24
or anytime online, by podcast,
or by mobile app.

Explore the pathway of blessing and consequences from the farewell address of Israel's grand old man, Moses, and learn what we can do to please God—all this in our study of Deuteronomy on THRU the BIBLE.

"God's highest goal for us isn't our obedience or service—it is that we would adore Him. We miss our greatest joy in life if we don't love Him with all our heart." —Dr. J. Vernon McGee

Moses talked with God face to face. He knew Him and His ways. The children of Israel only saw God's acts, but didn't know Him. Deuteronomy summarizes the lessons learned from 40 years in the wilderness as Moses says goodbye to the second-generation children of Israel as they prepare to enter the Promised Land.

KEY VERSE

What does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the Lord and His statutes which I command you today for your good? —Deuteronomy 10:12, 13

JESUS' FAVORITE BOOK?

ALMOST EVERY TIME JESUS QUOTED THE OLD TESTAMENT, IT WAS FROM DEUTERONOMY.

As He beat back Satan's temptation, Jesus wielded Deuteronomy's sword. Little wonder Satan still hates this book.

THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY IS ONE LONG PLEA FOR HEARTY OBEDIENCE BASED ON TWO THINGS:

- 1 OUR LOVE FOR GOD (22X)**
Why? Because God loved us first and wants us to enjoy Him and all the blessings of His love.
- 2 OUR WILLINGNESS TO DO WHAT HE ASKS (10X)**
Why? Because God loves us and wants to preserve and prosper us.

Up until this point in history, God has chosen Israel. Now He is letting Israel choose Him. Stand with the second-generation children of Israel and listen to this eloquent summary of what it means to follow God—and then go do what He asks.

ON THE ROAD

Greetings FROM THE BIBLE BUS

IT'S LETTER MONTH!

BEEN THINKING ABOUT WRITING? THIS IS THE *PERFECT TIME* TO FINALLY DO IT.

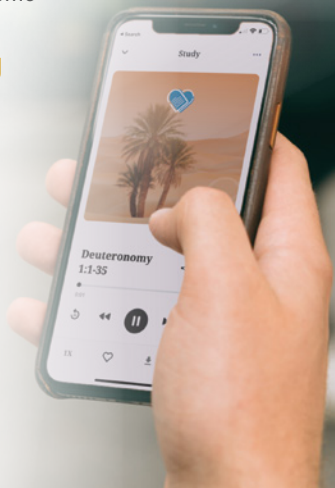
“On a regular basis I listen to Dr. McGee’s studies, and I’ve been over most of them several times by listening through the app and more recently the flash drive.... **I am a Native American minister and have been for nearly 30 years.... I very much enjoy the studies given by Dr. McGee.**

“I first heard *Thru the Bible* in my adolescent years while living on the Navajo reservation via KHAC in Tse Bonito, NM (Window Rock, AZ). My dad (my uncle) was a Baptist minister who raised me up on the Word after my father died in 1976. So, I grew up loving Dr. McGee’s voice and teaching.

“Now in my mid-50s, both voices of Gregg and Steve have become familiar and welcoming. Greet them for me, as well as extend my appreciation to all the *Thru the Bible* team. **Recently, I sang the hymn “Jesus Loves Even Me” in Diné (Navajo), and tears of joy rolled down my face knowing that the Lord is good and working through brothers and sisters such as yourselves.**

“Again, thank you. **I encourage people to download the app, and I’ve also committed to help provide Diné believers with flash drives and outlines if they choose to jump on the Bible Bus. Praise be to God for your continued steadfastness in getting God’s Word out.”**

NATHAN IN WINDOW ROCK, AZ



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