

WORKBOOK

SKIP HEITZIG



THE BIBLE FROM 30,000 FEET



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CONTENTS

Introduction	5
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Old Testament

Genesis	9
Exodus	13
Leviticus	17
Numbers	21
Deuteronomy	25
Joshua	29
Judges	33
Ruth	37
1 Samuel	41
2 Samuel	45
1 Kings	49
2 Kings	53
1 Chronicles	57
2 Chronicles	61
Ezra	65
Nehemiah	69
Esther	73
Job	77
Psalms	81
Proverbs	85
Ecclesiastes	89
Song of Solomon	93
Isaiah	97
Jeremiah	101

Lamentations	105
Ezekiel	109
Daniel	113
Hosea	117
Joel, Amos, and Obadiah	121
Jonah	125
Micah, Nahum, and Habakkuk	129
Zephaniah and Haggai	134
Zechariah and Malachi	138

New Testament

Matthew, Mark, and Luke	145
John	151
Acts	155
Romans	159
1 Corinthians	163
2 Corinthians	167
Galatians	171
Ephesians	175
Philippians	179
Colossians	183
1 and 2 Thessalonians	187
1 and 2 Timothy	191
Titus and Philemon	195
Hebrews	199
James	203
1 and 2 Peter	207
1 John	211
2 and 3 John and Jude	215
Revelation	219



INTRODUCTION

On a flight a few years back, I sat next to a man who was zealously devoted to a little book of crossword puzzles. He had his head buried in it the whole time as he scribbled away. He didn't even look up until we were about to land. So I jumped on the chance and said, "Crossword puzzle fan, are you?" He said, "Oh, I love crossword puzzles. I have a knack for them. I can knock out thirty-three words in nine minutes." We continued along in the conversation until he said something that struck me: "The first thing I do when I pack my suitcase is put in a book of crossword puzzles." This guy didn't just like crossword puzzles—he delighted in them!

In Psalm 1, King David described the blessed person—the truly happy person—by what he delights in: "His delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night" (v. 2). He delights in the Bible, God's Word.

I've spent my adult life learning, studying, and teaching the truths of the Bible. I'm passionate about people becoming impassioned about God and His Word. Even so, that encounter with the man on the plane got me thinking, *Is my Bible the first thing I think to pack when I'm traveling somewhere? Am I delighting in the law of the Lord as much as Mr. Crossword Puzzle delights in that book of his?*

Another way you could translate Psalm 1:2 is "He finds his greatest pleasure in the law of the Lord." He can't wait to crack it open. Why? Because this Book is the means to an end, and that end is an encounter with the living God. You have to know the Word of God to get to know the God of the Word. That's why growing in the Word and learning the Bible—the *whole* Bible—is of the utmost importance to the Christian walk.

Most people treat the word *meditate* with suspicion, thinking it refers to a disengaged mind repeating "Ommm!" over and over to receive impressions from the universe. But it's actually quite the opposite. Biblical meditation is when you consciously engage your mind and focus it on revealed truth: the Word of God. And get this: The root meaning of the Hebrew word translated "meditate" describes the low moaning of an animal, especially when it chews its cud. This picture of meditation, then, is that you don't just read Scripture—you feed on Scripture, mentally chewing on every

paragraph and sentence to get as much spiritual nourishment out of it as possible. As Jeremiah the prophet wrote, “Your words were found, and I ate them” (Jeremiah 15:16). That sort of slow, careful meditation is the link between theory and action. It forms your worldview and determines your behavior.

This is why I created this workbook as a companion piece to *The Bible from 30,000 Feet*. The workbook is divided into fifty-two chapters that cover all sixty-six books of the Bible, just like the main book. It’s designed to help you travel through the Scripture and apply what you read by interacting directly with the text itself. The following four points act as the itinerary for each chapter:

- **Takeoff.** All flights have a point of departure, a time to buckle up and take to the sky. In this section I offer an overview of the book or books at hand, providing a brief summary of content, facts, and themes.
- **In Flight.** Most flights offer food, show movies, or provide magazines for you to enjoy during your time in the sky. In the *In Flight* section of each chapter, I lay out the same outline found in the main *Bible from 30,000 Feet* book along with a number of questions meant to get you thinking about—meditating on—the text in front of you. My hope is that you’ll take the time to read, reflect on, and respond to these questions, whether individually or with a group of believers.
- **Landing.** As with all plane flights, there’s a time to land and go about your business. Here I provide a quick summary of the truths found in the text, challenging you to respond to what you’ve read and apply these truths to your life.
- **Memento.** Bringing home a souvenir from an enjoyable or even life-changing trip keeps you mindful of that experience. In the *Memento* section, I provide a memory verse, something you can take with you wherever you go by placing God’s truth in your heart. What’s special about these memory verses is every single one of them ties into the gospel, that scarlet thread of redemption that winds its way throughout the Scriptures.

My desire is that you’ll come to see the Bible for the treasure trove it is, not only understanding and applying its truths but delighting in them as well. So fasten your seat belt, put your heart in an upright position, and prepare for takeoff as we travel through *The Bible from 30,000 Feet Workbook*. I hope you enjoy the ride.

OLD TESTAMENT





GENESIS

Takeoff

Written by Moses sometime in the fifteenth century BC, Genesis is the first of the five opening books of the Bible—also known as the Law, the Torah, or the Pentateuch. Genesis is God’s inspired record of events and history as they actually happened. Moses wrote Genesis to remind God’s people—the Hebrews—of the origin of their people and God’s plan for them. The book covers the creation of the world, the origin of man, the fall, and how God began to work in His people through the lives of the patriarchs, establishing the history of the nation of Israel. Genesis also highlights the beginning of God’s plan of redemption for the human race (see Genesis 3:15). Understanding the foundational concepts in this book is crucial as you make your way through the rest of the Bible.

In Flight

The Formation (Genesis 1–2)

What did God think of what He created (see Genesis 1:31)? What does creation tell us about God’s character?

Read Genesis 1:26-27, 31; 2:18, 23-25; 3:8-11. What do these verses tell you about relationships, including the kind of relationship God had with Adam and Eve before the fall?

The Fall (Genesis 3–5)

Why did Eve eat the fruit of the tree (see Genesis 3:6)?

Read Romans 5:14–21. How did Adam's actions affect all of mankind, including you?

Genesis 3:15 is the Bible's first prediction of the Messiah, also known as the woman's Seed. What was predicted would happen to this Seed? What would happen to the serpent, Satan?

The Flood (Genesis 6–9)

Read Genesis 6:22. How do you respond when the Lord tells you to do something?

What covenant did God make with Noah and all of creation (see Genesis 8:20-22; 9:8-17)? What was its sign?

The Fallout (Genesis 9–11)

Has the Lord ever foiled your plans (see Genesis 11:5-8)? What did you learn from the experience?

What does the Tower of Babel incident in Genesis 11 tell you about how God deals with rebellion?

The Foursome (Genesis 12–50)

Read Genesis 15. What was the general gist of the covenant God made with Abraham? How did Abraham react to it (see v. 6; see also Romans 4:20-22)?

Which person in Genesis do you find most interesting? What can you learn from that person's life and relationship with God?

Landing

Genesis contains some of the most popular and well-known stories in the Bible. The challenge is to personalize these stories, understand that they're real accounts of real events that happened to real people, and learn practical lessons from them. Genesis shows us that God is the great Creator and Conductor, writing the score and leading the symphony of life according to His purposes. Our response to His power and sovereignty should be one of awe, worship, submission, and obedience.

Memento

"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

—Genesis 3:15