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

JESUS CHRIST

**can sympathize with you
in every trial, in every test.**

HE PERFECTLY UNDERSTANDS YOU,

**He loves you, and stands ready
to be your Savior.**

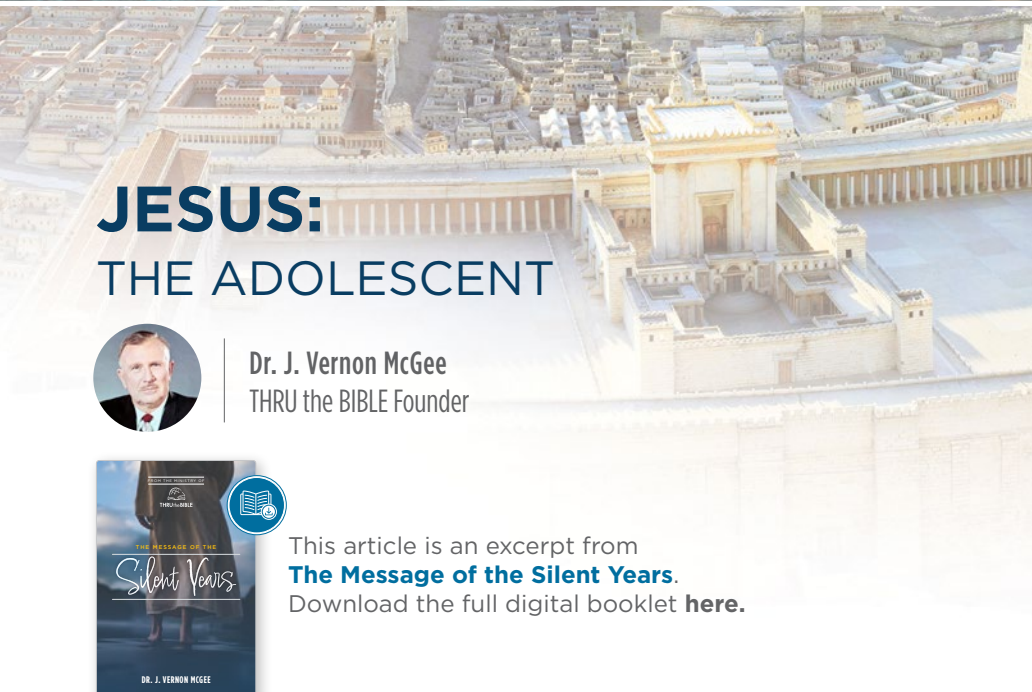
DR. J. VERNON MCGEE



THRU the **BIBLE**



WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD



JESUS: THE ADOLESCENT



Dr. J. Vernon McGee
THRU the BIBLE Founder



This article is an excerpt from
The Message of the Silent Years.
Download the full digital booklet [here](#).

When Jesus was 12, Dr. Luke thought it was proper to tell us one occurrence in Jesus' life that marks a change from childhood to adolescence. It is an isolated incident, and we don't want to miss it, for it bridges the gap from His birth to the time He began His public ministry.

The incident given to us by Dr. Luke was during the Passover feast when Jesus was 12. They traveled to Jerusalem, as was their custom, together with a great company. It was an informal sort of going, and I don't think there was anything out of the ordinary in the fact that on the return trip they didn't miss Jesus until they had gone a day's journey. But suddenly they did miss Him. You can imagine the thoughts that must have passed through Mary's mind. They traced

their way back to Jerusalem and found Him in a most unusual place—in the temple, with the doctors of the Law, the scribes, and the Pharisees around Him, marveling at the questions He could ask and the answers He could give. But all this was not impressive to Mary. She barged right in, as a mother would.

So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously."
-Luke 2:48

"Son" is not the word used for "child" in verse 40, nor is it the word used in verse 52. It is a term of endearment—her mother-word for Him. She called Him son in a way that no one else could have: "Son, why have You done this to us?" Now note this: "Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously." *Father?* Yes. By virtue of the fact that Joseph was the husband of Mary, he was Jesus' father.

And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" -Luke 2:49

In other words, Jesus said, "Mother, you should have known. It wasn't necessary to look for me." Up to 12 years of age, when Joseph said, "Go and get that two-by-four," little Jesus ran and got it. But He's 12 now, the age when He has a will and mind of His own. He says now, "I must be about my Father's business." Up to this point, He had been taught the Word of God, but I'm not sure if He ever had been asked to make any kind of decision. But at 12 years old He said in effect, "I am now ready to assume my responsibility." The will of Jesus is now bent to the will of God.

Now we see Jesus at the time of adolescence. What will He do? Leave home? Go out on His own? Is He going to start running a gang? No. He will do His Father's business, His Father's will. What is His Father's will? We read on:

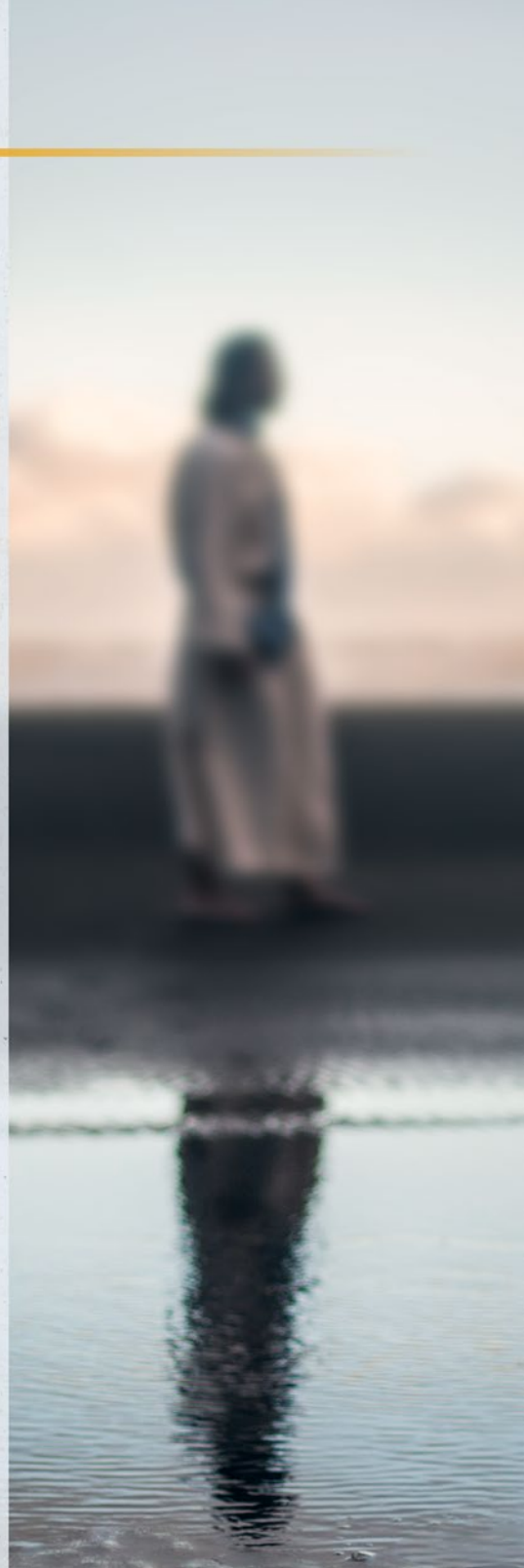
HE WAS
One of Us

May I say to you, Jesus Christ is the God-man. He was perfectly human and perfectly God. He came and took upon Himself our humanity, made in all points like as we are—sin apart, of course.

He went through the same process we do. He came into the world through a birth, though He was born of a virgin. He grew up in Nazareth, a miserable little town with a bad reputation. He had to learn the Scriptures just as we do. That said, He confounded the wisest scholars of the day. He learned a craftsman's trade from Joseph, the man God ordained to be Jesus' earthly father. He made a living as a craftsman until the day He transitioned from building things to dealing with the human soul. He never knew what old age felt like, but they made an old man of Him on the cross when they crucified Him. When He bore the sins of all humanity, He became then the ancient of days.

Because He was one of us.

Jesus Christ is the perfect God-man. We will never fully understand that—we can only bow in reverence and in worship.



Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them ...

-Luke 2:51

As long as He is a teenager, He is subject to His parents. Such is His Father's will. Modern psychology has gotten us into terrible difficulty by running counter to this principle.

Then we come again to Dr. Luke's notation in his physician's chart that covered the period from the beginning of adolescence to manhood:

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

-Luke 2:52

He increased in wisdom, mentally—the one who is omniscient grew in wisdom! He increased in stature, physically, growing as any other boy grows. He increased in favor, in grace, with God and men. That is spiritual growth. In all three areas of His total personality as a human being He grew normally from the time He was 12 years old until He came to manhood. My friend, a child who does not grow mentally, physically, and spiritually will surely have trouble growing later on. Many letters come to my desk from folk newly saved. They ask questions that to you would sound silly. But they are not silly; they are baby questions that should have been answered in their teens. Someone failed to give them the Scriptures when they were young.

I wish we could visit that carpenter shop in Nazareth. I see a little boy around there helping His dad. I see Him at 16, 17, 18. Then at some time during His young years Joseph probably died, and I see Jesus assuming the responsibility for which He had been prepared.

MY TURN

- ① **From adolescence to maturity, the Gospel of Luke tells us that Jesus grew mentally, physically, and spiritually.** Which of those are surprising to you?
- ② **No matter your age, would you like to be growing healthier in these three areas?** Which one stands out as a need to you?
- ③ **What details of Jesus' silent years would you wish we knew more about?**



REACHING THE WORLD WITH THE WORD, ONE APP AT A TIME

CONTEXTUALIZED BIBLE APPS



Brian Emerson
Vice President of International Scripture Ministries, Inc.,
a valued and integral digital partner with THRU the BIBLE

In a world more interconnected than ever before, the echoes of Dr. J. Vernon McGee’s mission— “the whole Word to the whole world”—resound louder than ever. This vision is being realized through our faithful broadcasters and the power of digital technology in developments like our Contextualized Bible Apps.

THRU the BIBLE study programs have been a source of spiritual nourishment for millions across the globe. Today, our programs are distributed **in over 200 languages, reaching more than 160 countries.** This global outreach is a testament to our steadfast commitment to bringing Dr. McGee’s insightful Bible teachings to every corner of the world.

Our Contextualized Bible Apps are a giant leap forward in fulfilling this mission. These specially designed applications offer access to Scriptures and Dr. McGee’s teachings in the language of the user. **As of this summer, we have created and launched over 36 unique Bible apps, each tailored to a specific language group and offering these features for engagement:**

- **Bible**—read and listen to the Bible in your language and tap on a verse to go straight to the related THRU the BIBLE study program
- **Study**—choose a Bible book and listen solely to THRU the BIBLE’s study programs
- **Share**—share a testimony or the app with friends and family

Yet, our hopes continue beyond. **We aim to develop an app for every language in which THRU the BIBLE study programs are delivered globally—over 100 unique, language-specific Bible apps.**

As we work towards this goal, we encourage you to check back regularly and share these apps with those in your circle who could benefit from Bible teachings in their native language.



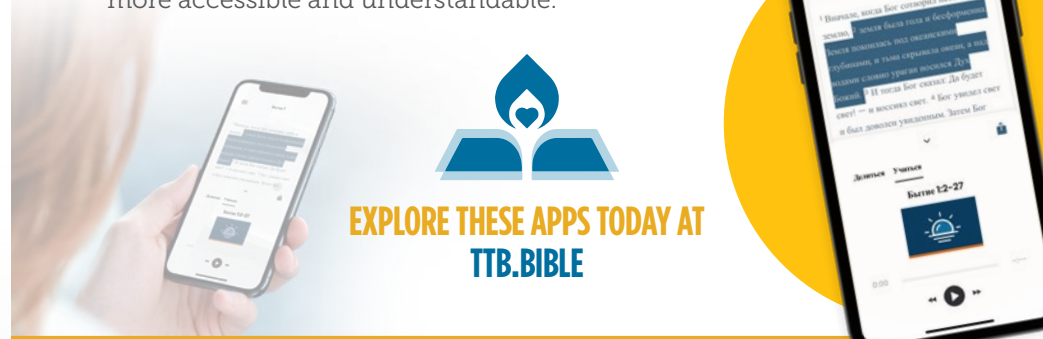
Why Contextualized Bible Apps?

Global reach: With the spread of smartphones, we have an unprecedented opportunity to reach people wherever they are, in a language that resonates with them.

Immediate access: These apps offer instant access to Scripture and THRU the BIBLE teaching at the touch of a button. No physical books or CDs required.

Language specific: Each app is tailored to a specific language and culture, making the Word of God more accessible and understandable.

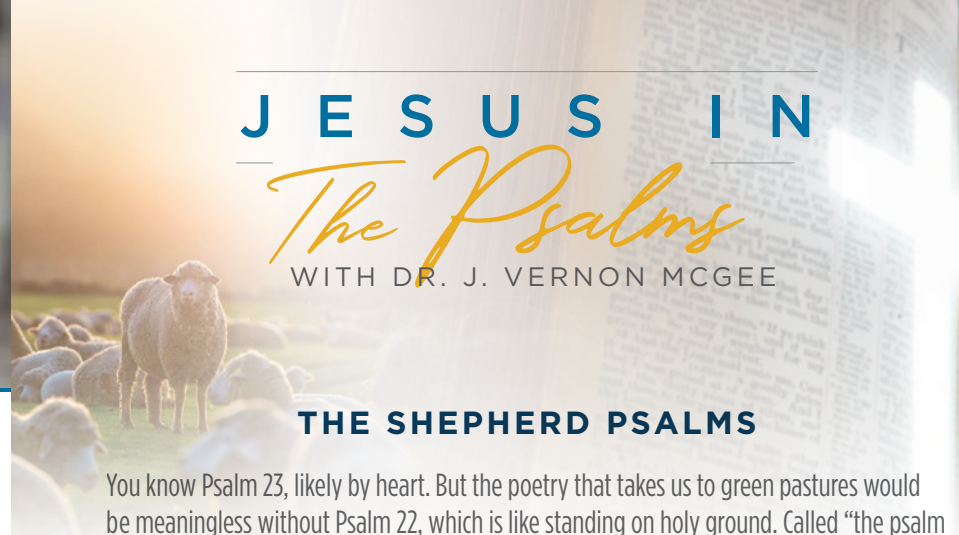
36+
LANGUAGE APPS
AND COUNTING



EXPLORE THESE APPS TODAY AT
TTB.BIBLE

In a world with over 7,000 languages spoken and the rise of digital technology, the need for Contextualized Bible Apps has never been more significant. As we venture into this next chapter, we do so with Dr. McGee’s mission guiding us: **to take the whole Word to the whole world.** With the continued support of our global family, we are confident that we can use technology as a tool to spread the gospel and touch more lives than ever before. Together, we are sharing God’s Word, one app at a time.

Whether you’re a longtime rider on the Bible Bus or just getting on board, we’re excited for you to join us on this journey. **With these apps, we’re not just reading the Bible; we’re living it, breathing it, and sharing it across languages and borders.** Hop on the Bible Bus and share the journey—there are millions of potential riders out there waiting for an invitation.



J E S U S I N

The Psalms

WITH DR. J. VERNON MCGEE

THE SHEPHERD PSALMS

NO ROOM FOR WORRY

You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.
 -Isaiah 26:3

At some points in our lives, most of us suffer through sleepless nights and fretful days—plagued by a worry on our mind that won't go away. Sound familiar?

Svetlana, a friend on the Bible Bus in Russia, thinks so. Here's her story:

"I am a violist who is fortunate to travel the world playing with accomplished musicians. Often, I feel paralyzed by fear. What will happen to us, our country, and my family while I am gone? I began to have panic attacks.

"I am so grateful that I discovered your programs! Now that I am being filled by God's Word, there is no room in my soul for worry. I feel as though God's Word is healing me. I never thought that one day I would be studying the Bible, but

now Jesus is my anchor. My daughter observed this transformation in me, and we listen to you together."

While we pray for God's Word as it goes out in Russia today, let's also intercede for all those on the Bible Bus who struggle with fear. As we keep our minds on Him, may His perfect peace seep deep into our hearts, leaving no room for worry to take root and dominate our thoughts and lives.

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.

You know Psalm 23, likely by heart. But the poetry that takes us to green pastures would be meaningless without Psalm 22, which is like standing on holy ground. Called "the psalm of the cross," Psalm 22 accurately and specifically describes Jesus' crucifixion better than any other part of the Bible. But the picture Psalms 22 and 23 paint isn't complete without Psalm 24, a chorus sung about Jesus, the King of glory.

All three together are called the Shepherd Psalms.

In Psalm 22, Jesus is the Good Shepherd. (Read John 10:11.) He's the Savior on the cross. No one can say, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want" until he can say, "The Lord is my Savior."

In Psalm 23, Jesus is the Great Shepherd. (Read Hebrews 13:20-21.) Here we see Jesus, our Satisfier, holding His staff. **He satisfied the Father's holy demands through His blood, and today He satisfies every searching soul with goodness and mercy.**

Psalm 24 reveals Jesus as the Chief Shepherd. (Read 1 Peter 5:4.) In this psalm, we picture the King's crown that Sovereign Jesus will wear someday.

The Shepherd Psalms remind us how to face life and death. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me." It's a terrible thing to think of dying by yourself. **I know I'm not going through the doorway of death alone. Somebody is going with me, so I'm not going to fear. Our tender Shepherd Jesus does not leave His sheep but leads us from this life to the next.**

This world hasn't anything to equal that kind of love.

For today, David said, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life." For eternity, he said, "And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Who is Jesus to you today? He is your Shepherd. In Psalm 22, He gives His life for the sheep. In Psalm 23, He gives His love to the sheep. In Psalm 24, He gives us light when He shall appear.

Next time you hear or read Psalm 23, remember the more complete picture. In the past He died for us, in the present He lives for us, and in the future, He is coming again for us.



THRU the BIBLE

A WORD FROM GREGG HARRIS

God's Word Goes Forth

"Wherever the Word of God is preached, there will be those who listen and believe."

-Dr. J. Vernon McGee

As percentages go, the Bible's success rate is pretty remarkable.

I appreciate Dr. McGee's confidence in God when he reflected that every time God's Word is preached, it will accomplish what God intends. This echoes Isaiah 55:11 that affirms the Bible's 100% success rate.

"For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it." -Isaiah 55:10-11

Consider that in practical terms. Even as we read this, hundreds of people worldwide are listening to THRU the BIBLE. Right now, think of how God is accomplishing His work in their (our) lives. In these pages alone, we tell stories of how new language apps are being launched today, how you are handing out Bible Bus passes, how you are inviting your small groups and neighbors to study God's Word in the Bible Companions.

**As rain waters the seed, the seed grows.
As the seed grows and is harvested, it becomes bread.
And more people are fed the Bread of Life.**

Grateful for your partnership in taking the whole Word to the whole world,

Gregg Harris
THRU the BIBLE, President



GOT A MINUTE FOR A GOOD WORD?

Listen to *Minute with McGee*, a new short program launched this year. **Just one minute with Dr. J. Vernon McGee will calm your heart, stir your faith, or teach you something important.** Bet you can't stop at just one!

You may have already heard this new program from THRU the BIBLE on your local station—or maybe not. We hope this mini-Bible study will be useful in filling in gaps between programs or airing at random times throughout the day where other listeners may not know about THRU the BIBLE. **Tell your station you want to hear it!**

And you can always come back to TTB.org to listen to the newest *Minute with McGee*. You will for sure hear something new every time.



Listen on: TTB.org Facebook and Instagram

I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY

GREETINGS FROM THE BIBLE BUS

“Six months ago, I had never heard of *Thru the Bible* or J. Vernon McGee. Six months ago, I also didn’t know the first thing about how to read a book of the Bible—its historical context, its structure, and the beauty of seeing Jesus hiding in plain sight for anyone to see, if only they would just look. My small group leader introduced the book of Revelation study to us and encouraged us to, at the least, read a lesson each week and the Bible passage every day. That little assignment changed everything for me. Eventually, I also listened to Dr. McGee’s fuller explanation. **I feel like this study has opened a whole new world for me. Now, I’m with you on the Bible Bus and I understand that I’m joining with a company of people who have been traveling this road for decades. Well, make room for me and maybe some more I’ll bring along with me. This stuff is too good not to share.”** **From Kent | Corona, California**

“While we are visiting our daughter in Alaska, we attend a local church. Last week, a woman from Iran sat behind us. I asked her what the language was that she was speaking, and she said, ‘Persian.’ Our communication was difficult because I do not know a word of Persian, and her English was limited. **But I showed her how to access *Thru the Bible* in Persian on the TTB app. I gave her a card with the website on it. I hope to see her again next Sunday to see if she needs help to download the Persian program. I was thrilled to be able to share like this across a great language barrier.”** **From Shirley | Oklahoma**



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