

September

Travel with us *Thru the Bible*

2020

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

GOD WANTS US TO REST

*in His love.*

J. VERNON MCGEE



**THRU**the**BIBLE**



# WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD

## DISCOVER A DIFFERENT SIDE OF GOD'S LOVE

Dr. J. Vernon McGee

The tiny book of Zephaniah shares the same theme as one of the best-known books of the Bible, the Gospel of John. John is called the apostle of love, but Zephaniah is the *prophet* of love.

John 3:16 is an amazing verse about God's love, but have you ever read Zephaniah 3:17?

*The LORD your God in your midst, the mighty One,  
will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness,  
He will quiet you with His love.  
He will rejoice over you with singing.*

Zephaniah's prophecy is a little different from the Gospel of John. This verse is a small island sheltered on a storm-tossed sea. Most of the book feels like a fury poured out. For example, chapter 3 opens with "woe to her who is rebellious and polluted, to the oppressing city!" Where's the love there?

Zephaniah's prophecy predicts worldwide devastation. Revelation confirms and places the time of this judgment as the Great Tribulation Period. The earth will be absolutely devastated by the judgments in a time right before God ushers in the millennial kingdom and renews the earth.



Learn more in Dr. McGee's digital booklet, "The Dark Side of God's Love."

So, how can love be the theme in a book with so much judgment? Let me prove it by telling you a mystery—the mystery of God's dark side of love. Picture the scene:

Late at night in a typical suburban home, a child lays restless in her bed. From the hall, her bedroom door opens just an inch so the light falls on the little girl's face. She begins to cry as a man with an intense look quietly approaches her bed. Her mother rushes into the room, putting herself between the man and the child, and the trembling girl throws her arms about her.

The man, now whispering into his phone, alerts another person waiting for his call. Now in a hurry, the man re-enters the room, tears the child from her mother's arms, and rushes out with her to a waiting car. As the child sobs, he drives madly down street after street until he finally pulls up before a large, foreboding building. Partially dark, only one room upstairs is ablaze with light.

He covers the child with a blanket and hurriedly takes her inside. Up to the lighted room, he rushes the crying child to an inner room, handing her off to a second man. The child, now eerily limp and quiet, is taken on a stretcher to where a group wait inside a room. A final look through the door spies a gleaming, sharp knife, slicing into the abdomen of that little child while she lay as if she were dead.

What a nightmare! *These monsters must be stopped!*

But take a fresh look with another perspective. This isn't a criminal act—this is a tender, sincere act of love.

You see, the little girl woke in the night with severe abdominal pain. Her father rushed into the room, and when he saw his precious daughter suffering, he called the family doctor who told him to get his little girl to the hospital as quickly as possible. Then the dad handed her over to the team of doctors who performed emergency surgery. Through it all, every move and every act of that father was of tender love, anxious care, and a wise decision.

This is the dark side of love—but *love*, nevertheless.

The father loved the child just as much on that dark night when he took her to the hospital and delivered her to the surgeon's knife as he did the next day when he brought flowers and balloons to her recovery room. It was deep affection when he delivered her into the hands of the surgeon just as it was the next week when he brought her home and delivered her back into her mother's arms.



My friend, love places the eternal security and permanent welfare of the loved one above any temporary comfort or present pleasure down here upon this earth. Love seeks the best interests of the beloved.

Today the love of God is exaggerated out of all proportion to His other attributes. God's love is also presented as a weakness rather than a strength. The way modern thinking portrays the love of God is like the doting of grandparents rather than the vital and vigorous concern of a parent for the best interests of the child.

The dark side of God's love means the Great Physician puts His child on the operating table. He will use the surgeon's knife when He sees a tumor of transgression, a deadly virus sapping our spiritual lives, or the cancerous growth of sin. He doesn't hesitate to deal with us severely. We must learn this fact early: God loves us just as much when He is subjecting us to surgery as when He overwhelms us with gifts.

When God sees it is best for you to go down through the valley of suffering, that it will be for your eternal welfare, He will not hesitate to let you into that valley.

## » MY TURN

FROM *J. Vernon McGee*

"I hear preachers talk about the golden streets of heaven. I'll be honest with you, I don't think the golden streets of heaven are going to be the most impressive thing there. I hear people talk about the gates of pearl and, friend, although they will be beautiful, they will not be the thrilling thing. I hear people say God is going to wipe away all tears—that is wonderful, but that won't be the most wonderful thing of all, either.

"Rather, I think you and I are going to look back on the brief life we lived down here and "our light affliction, which [was] but for a moment" (2 Corinthians 4:17). Then we will go to God and thank Him for every burden, every trial He gave us down here. We are going to thank Him even for sickness—not for healing, but for sickness. We will thank Him for every problem, every disappointment, every faithless friend, every heartache, every false accusation that ever has been made against us. I think we will go to Him and say, "O God, I thank You for putting me on the operating table and cutting out that which was hindering me."

**WHAT IS YOUR PRAYER TODAY?**

## THE EFFECT OF *THRU THE BIBLE* ON OUR GLOBAL PRODUCERS



**Harry Bettig**, *Thru the Bible's* global liaison for TWR

When we think of *Thru the Bible's* impact around the world, we often think of the many listeners who learn God's Word and grow in their faith. But there is another group who greatly benefits from Dr. McGee's teaching material: The *Thru the Bible* producers. Those who translate and voice the program into other languages often comment on how much they have learned about the Bible while translating the messages. The voice of Dr. McGee in the Malayalam language told me he had gone to seminary before his involvement with *Thru the Bible* and then added, "But it wasn't until I started producing the *Thru the Bible* program that I really got to know the Bible."

Some of *Thru the Bible's* global producers are pastors, and they have gladly incorporated Dr. McGee's material into their Sunday messages. It is not a surprise to hear them say their messages have greatly improved after learning Dr. McGee's material. On a side note, many pastors around the world say something similar. For example, while I was attending a listeners' meeting at a small church in Bali,



**The pastor of this church in Bali, Indonesia**, uses *Thru the Bible* to help him prepare his weekly sermons.

Indonesia, last fall, the pastor mentioned that he uses *Thru the Bible's* material for his congregation, explaining, "I appreciate the detailed verse-by-verse explanations and it helps me with my sermons." Certainly, the words of Dr. McGee

are repeated in many pulpits around the world today.

After completing the 5-year series, some producers stay involved with *Thru the Bible* by answering listener feedback and developing audience relations. The African French producer has become a trusted friend and confidant to his listeners who affectionately call him "Papa Doh." (pictured) He often receives visits from listeners seeking advice or wanting prayer.

Knowing God's Word helps him provide useful biblical counsel.

When I asked one of the Central Asian *Thru the Bible* producers how he had benefitted from translating and voicing Dr. McGee's material, without hesitation he replied, "*Thru the Bible* helped me find a gift: my voice." Completing the 5-year cycle of programs gave him confidence and developed his oral presentation. Doors have opened, and he now makes a living doing voice work such as recording audiobooks and dubbing videos. After coming to the Lord, a remote group of Roma in his country were being disciplined by *Thru the Bible*. Referring to the producer, they asked one visiting Christian worker, "When are we going to meet the man with the angel's voice?"


During my years of ministry with Trans World Radio (TWR) and my involvement with the *Thru the Bible* program, it has been a privilege and blessing to personally meet *Thru the Bible* producers from around the world. They often exhibit a spirit of humility and gratitude, but to me and their listeners, they are heroes of the faith as they present the whole Word to their part of the world.



**Papa Doh**, the African French  
TTB producer

## LISTENING IN MY LANGUAGE MAKES ME FEEL ...

*"God speaks Quichua!"*

As our  World Prayer Team travels along the Andean mountains of Ecuador, that's the joyous refrain we hear.

As one listener tells us,

*"We heard about Jesus in Spanish, but until we heard your program, we didn't know God speaks Quichua. Listening in my own language makes me feel closer to Him. I understand the message better, and I know He cares about my people."*

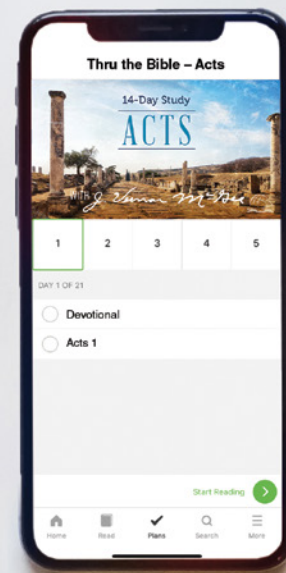
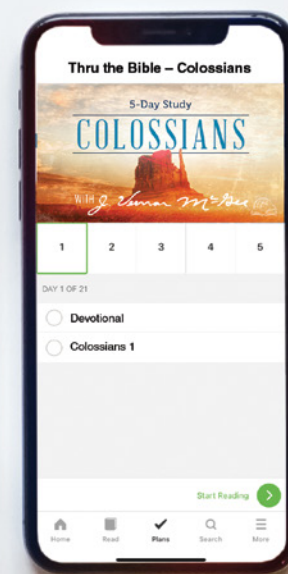
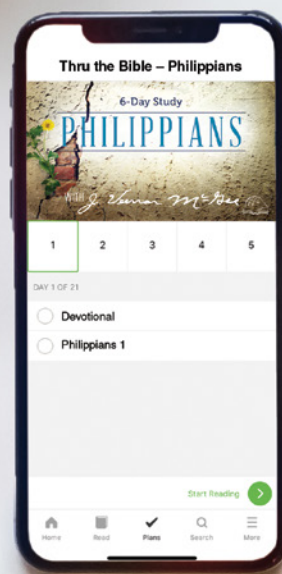
With more than 3 million people that speak the Quichua language, pray today that more will hear *Thru the Bible* and respond in faith. Although many Quichua people have heard of God, only a small percentage have really been taught about the full saving grace of Jesus Christ.

This is an example of the email our World Prayer Team receives every weekday. Together, we are traveling the world on our knees, interceding for one country at a time. We invite you to join us in covering the entire earth with prayer every year.

GO TO **TTB.ORG/PRAY**  
TO SIGN UP.

# What's Happening at **THRU the BIBLE**

Check out *Thru the Bible's*  
new plans on  YouVersion



Get the YouVersion app  
at [Bible.com/app](https://Bible.com/app) and  
search for /McGee.

## Ob Portu

*For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord,  
as the waters cover the sea.* –Habakkuk 2:14

*The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way.* –Psalm 37:23

Long ago before modern harbors were built, a ship could not launch from port until the tide came in. They loaded the craft. The crew geared up. Then they just waited for the rising tide. The Latin term for this situation was *ob portu* ... the English word “opportunity.”

Today we face opportunities. Each of us.

Where is God taking you?

How would God be pleased to use *Thru the Bible* tomorrow?

Great questions for us individually and as a ministry.

So today, dream a little. *Pray more.* **Be ready to respond with confidence in God that will change our lives ... for the rest of our lives.** We can be sure that wherever God directs, He will also equip.

Staying in port is not an option. We must sail on the winds of God’s leading. Thank you for your ministry partnership and for praying with us for God’s Word to cover the earth like the waters cover the sea.

With you for the journey,



Gregg Harris  
President, *Thru the Bible*

# WHY STUDY JUDE?

Join in the studies on  
*Thru the Bible* **SEPTEMBER 24–  
OCTOBER 9** or anytime online,  
by podcast, or by mobile app.

This little epistle of Jude (just 25 verses) is like a burglar alarm. Apostates have broken into the church. They came in the side door while nobody was watching. They’re teaching against grace and against Jesus Christ.

The little prophecy of Jude affords a fitting introduction to the book of Revelation.

## KEY VERSE

*Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.* –Jude 3

*“Jude hangs out a red lantern on the most dangerous curve along the highway the church of Christ is traveling. Jude describes in vivid terms and with awe-inspiring language the frightful conditions that are coming in the future for the church.”* –J. Vernon McGee

**Jude, the writer of this epistle, is the half-brother of the Lord Jesus Christ** (along with James, the writer of the epistle of James). They both introduce themselves as “a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ.” Why didn’t they capitalize on their blood relationship with Jesus? Because neither of them believed in the messianic claims of Jesus until after His resurrection. Now they are His servants.

## ONLY JUDE...

- Tells us about the fight between Satan and Michael the archangel over the body of Moses. (v.9)
- Records the prophecy of Enoch, who sees the Lord coming with “ten thousands of His saints.” (v. 14)

## JUDE’S BEAUTIFUL BENEDICTION:

*Now to Him* WHO IS ABLE TO KEEP YOU FROM STUMBLING,  
AND TO PRESENT YOU FAULTLESS BEFORE  
THE PRESENCE OF *His glory* WITH EXCEEDING JOY,  
TO GOD OUR *Savior*, WHO ALONE IS *wise*,  
BE *glory* AND *majesty, dominion* AND *power*,  
BOTH NOW AND FOREVER. AMEN.

JUDE 24-25

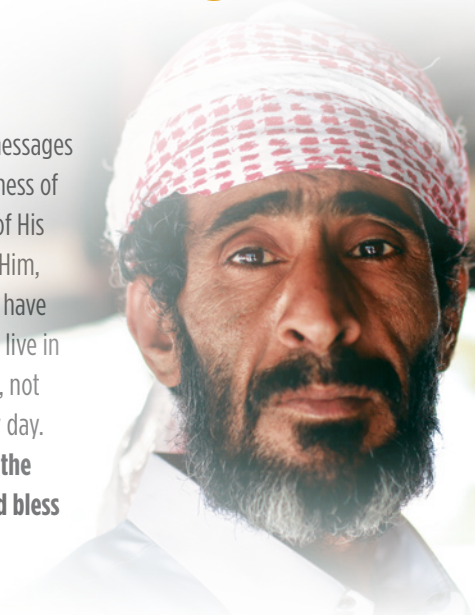
# I Love to Tell *the Story*

## Najeeb from Jordan

is on the Bible Bus and listens in Arabic:

"I write because I am overwhelmed by your messages that have taught me not only about the greatness of our Lord Jesus Christ, but also the gentleness of His hands that surround me. When I first came to Him, I lived in fear. But I'm not afraid anymore. You have shown I can rely on God and challenged me to live in His presence until He calls me home. Not early, not late, but on time. I try to remember that every day.

**Please pray for us who believe in this area of the world. Ask the Lord to use us for His glory and bless us as we serve Him, and Him alone."**



## From a new friend listening to the Maithili broadcast in India:

"I come from a different faith but listen regularly. Your words bring peace and joy into my life. I now understand the Word of God and appreciate the great love Jesus has for me.

**Thank you for your love and concern for us. I am growing in my new life because of you."**

## From a friend who listens to *Thru the Bible* in Farsi:

"I am a young Iranian man who doesn't know any other religion than Islam. Through your broadcast I have learned about Jesus and want to become a Christian. Because of the conditions in my country, it is difficult to learn about Christ.

**Please pray for me and keep teaching these things."**



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