

July | 2026



**JOHN THE BAPTIST: A BURNING AND SHINING LAMP IN A DARK WORLD**

"He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light." John 5:35

Before electricity reached our homes in India, families depended on oil lamps or hurricane lanterns after sunset. A burning lamp enabled people to walk safely, cook meals, and complete their work. Yet everyone understood that the lamp was temporary. It had to be refilled with oil, and its flame would eventually go out. At sunrise, the lamp was no longer needed because the sun itself had risen.

When you think about John the Baptist, what image comes to your mind? He was a man in the wilderness, dressed in "a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt about his waist," and he called everyone to "Repent!" After nearly four hundred years of prophetic silence, God raised John as the forerunner of the Messiah. He shouted, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near" (Matthew 3).

In John 5:35, Jesus describes John the Baptist not as the Light but as “**a lamp that burned and gave light.**” This distinction is significant. Throughout John’s Gospel, Jesus alone is the true and eternal Light (John 1:9, 8:12), while John the Baptist was a lamp whose purpose was to point others to Christ. A lamp has no light of its own, it shines only because it has been lit. John the Baptist served as God’s lamp, preparing Israel for the coming of Jesus, the true Light of the world. His mission was to prepare people’s hearts through repentance so that they would receive the promised Messiah.

The people loved listening to John’s fearless preaching. They admired his boldness and respected his holy life. Many travelled long distances to hear him speak. But when John pointed to Jesus and declared, “Behold! The Lamb of God,” many stopped following him. They enjoyed the preacher but rejected the Saviour.

Isn’t this one of the greatest dangers in our churches today?

John was a **lamp, a small portable one** whose wick was fed with oil (of the Spirit) to show people walking in spiritual darkness the way, as he reflected the Light of the World so that people could see “the Way, the Truth and the Life” (Jn 14:6). In a society filled with moral confusion and spiritual darkness, every Christian is a lamp. Our calling is to bear **faithful witness** to Christ. As believers, we are called to shine in this dark world. When people see our lives, they should glorify our heavenly Father and come to know His Son.

May God help us become a lamp to testify about the Lamb of God, showing the light of Christ to the people around us. “You are the light of the world. Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:14-16)

- Arputharaj Samuel, Bangalore.

God doesn't promise a life free from trials. However, He has given us the tools we need to fight our battles through His Word, the Bible. - Heather Bixler



### **Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. On behalf of the GODependence team, I extend my loving wishes to each one of you. I thank God for this opportunity He has given us to connect with you once again through this newsletter.

We know that June 21 is observed as International Yoga Day. In today's world, where stress and lifestyle-related diseases are on the rise, many people turn to practices such as yoga and meditation for physical health and mental peace. However, from a Christian perspective, meditation is fundamentally different. Although the Bible contains many references to meditation, Joshua 1:8 and Psalm 1:1-3 especially emphasise the importance of meditating on God's Word day and night and the blessings that follow. Let us consider some key characteristics of biblical meditation.

### **1. Biblical Meditation Focuses on God's Word, Not on Self**

Many spiritual philosophies, including yoga meditation, encourage people to look within themselves to discover the divine.

They teach that self-discovery and recognising the divinity within are the paths to enlightenment. However, the Bible never directs us to look within ourselves for truth. Instead, it calls us to look to the living God, who has revealed Himself through His Holy Word. We do not discover truth by searching within ourselves, rather, we receive it because God has graciously revealed it through the Scriptures. Christian meditation is not about emptying the mind or journeying inward through self-awareness. Instead, it is about remembering, deeply reflecting on, and applying the truths God has revealed in His Word. Biblical meditation means thoughtfully considering how the truths revealed in Scripture relate to our own lives and making those truths our own.

There is a fundamental difference between self-centred yoga meditation and Bible-centered Christian meditation. Yoga meditation seeks to unite man with the divine through human effort,

It is God's Word, not our comment on God's Word, which saves souls. The Word of God is powerful for all sacred ends. - **Charles Spurgeon**

implying that a person can attain a divine state through meditation. This echoes Satan's deception in Genesis 3:5: "you will be like God, knowing good and evil." In contrast, biblical meditation is founded on the truth that God speaks to us through His Word, and we commune with Him through prayer.

## **2. Biblical Meditation Produces Not Only Peace of Mind but Also Obedience to God**

Many people view meditation merely as a tool for achieving mental peace. Biblical meditation, however, goes far beyond that. The primary purpose of Christian meditation is not merely physical well-being but spiritual transformation. As 1 Timothy 4:8 says, "For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come." Yoga meditation mainly emphasises physical health and mental tranquillity. Biblical meditation, however, confronts humanity's problem of sin and leads people to the salvation found in Jesus Christ. It offers not merely

emotional calm but the true peace that comes through forgiveness of sins. The goal of biblical meditation is not simply emotional comfort or inner peace. While God's peace is certainly given to those who trust Him, its primary purpose is to transform our lives through obedience to God. The Bible never separates meditation from holy living. God's Word was given not merely to increase our knowledge but also to transform our character. As we meditate on Scripture, the Holy Spirit exposes our sins, renews our desires, directs our decisions, and gradually conforms us to the likeness of Christ.

## **3. Biblical Meditation Leads to God's Blessing and Lasting Success**

Joshua 1:8 gives us a wonderful promise: "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success." Through meditating on God's Word, we receive His guidance and experience success in every area of

The promise that "you will make your way prosperous" means that meditation guards us from error and directs us along God's path. The person who meditates on God's Word does not rely on human wisdom but walks according to God's wisdom. This is the true foundation of lasting success.

Psalm 1:2-3 beautifully reinforces this truth: "But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither, And whatever he does shall prosper." The promises "For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success." and "whatever he does shall prosper" are God's assurance regarding the fruit of biblical meditation. The success described in Scripture is not worldly fame or material prosperity. Rather, it is the blessing of living according to God's will and experiencing His wisdom, guidance, and favor in every aspect of life.

Christian meditation focuses on God's Word, not on self, it produces not only peace of mind but also obedience to God and leads to God's blessings and lasting success. When we meditate on God's Word day and night and live according to it, our lives gain true meaning and eternal value. In a world increasingly influenced by practices such as yoga meditation, let us stand firmly upon God's Word and live by this enduring truth: "Let the Scriptures be our meditation, and let prayer be our daily practice."

Bible Meditation Groups (BMGs) will launch on 15 July 2026, following the talk shows held in April on "Meditating on the Bible: Why, When, and How?" and in May on "Various Methods of Bible Meditation." Many people have enthusiastically joined our Bible Meditation Groups. Please pray that these Bible Meditation Groups will continue to function effectively and life.

This "success" is not merely worldly achievement but the success of living in harmony with God's will. help many believers grow deeper in God's Word.

Despite the ongoing spam-related issues, more than 750 participants have joined the July 2026 Bible Reading Challenge (BRC) groups and have begun reading the Bible, similar to the same number last year.

Last month, on 27 June 2026, a 4-hour Bible Readathon was successfully conducted in the Telugu language. This month, the Bible Readathon will be held in Malayalam on 31 July 2026.

We trust that you are reading our monthly newsletters regularly. We would greatly appreciate hearing your feedback and suggestions regarding the content of these newsletters from time to time.

Please continue to pray for the ministries of GODependence and help introduce its various ministries to others.

May the name of the Lord be glorified.

**In Christ's service,  
Dr. Pethuru Devadason.**



## Our Vision & Our Mission

### Our Vision

To enlighten,  
enrich, and  
empower people  
to become  
dependent on  
God.



### Our Mission

GODependence  
seeks to help  
people become  
dependent on God by  
engaging with God's  
Word and prayer.

You do have a love story. It's in the Bible. It tells you how much God loves you, and how far He went just to win you over.

# Praise & Prayer Points - July 2026

## Praise God For:

1. All those who successfully completed their Bible Reading Challenge by the end of June 2026.
2. The Bible Readathon was held in Telugu on 27 June 2026, and many volunteers participated enthusiastically by reading the Scriptures and glorifying the name of the Lord.
3. Let us thank God for the many children who joined the Children's Bible Reading Challenge (CBRC), which began on 8 June 2026, and are faithfully reading the Bible and memorising Scripture verses. Let us also thank Him for the encouraging testimonies shared by their parents.
4. Let us thank the Lord for enabling us to launch Bible Reading Challenge groups in the Nepali language from July 2026.
5. Though we have faced many ups and downs in our studies, work, family, ministry, and personal lives during 2026, let us thank the Lord for His grace in bringing us safely through the first six months of the year and into the seventh month. ”

## Let's Pray For:

1. Let us pray that everyone participating in the July 2026 Bible Reading Challenge groups will successfully complete their Bible reading in due time.
2. Let us pray that the Bible Readathon events planned for July 2026 will glorify God and be a blessing to many.
3. Let us pray that the Bible Meditation Groups will commence as planned from 15 July 2026 and continue to function effectively and consistently.
4. Let us pray that children and young people will not go astray but will experience the love of the Lord and grow in obedience to God and to their parents.
5. Let us also pray for everyone undergoing medical treatment that they may receive complete healing soon, and that God's peace may prevail in every family. ”

The Bible is very clear that God put you here on Earth to do two things:  
to learn to love God and to learn to love other people. - Rick Warren

# The Slogans of Protestant Reformation



## Slogan 5: “Glory of God alone!” (Soli Deo Gloria)

“The chief end of man is to glorify God!” This is one of the profound theological statements. That’s why Apostle Paul admonished, “Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31). If even eating is not excluded, we cannot do anything that does not glorify God.

The life of Christ is the perfect Example of bringing glory to God in everything. At His birth the heavenly host praised God, saying, “Glory to God in the Highest!” (Luke 2:14). The end of the model prayer He taught His disciples is, “Yours in the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen!” (Matthew 6:13b). When a lawyer addressed Jesus as “Good Teacher,” Jesus instantly replied, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God!” (Matthew 19:16, 17). See how He did not touch the glory that belonged to His Father! When Jesus healed a paralytic, “the multitudes marvelled and glorified God, who had given such power to men” (Matthew 9:8, Luke 7:16). When folks wanted to take Jesus by force to make Him king, on seeing how He multiplied five loaves and two fish to feed over five thousand people, “He departed to a mountain by Himself alone!” (John 6:15). His confession before the Father in His High Priestly prayer was, “I have glorified You on the earth” (John 17:4). The highest exaltation of Jesus for every knee to bow before Him and every tongue to confess His lordship is ultimately “to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:9-11).

Beloved, we may have several plus points in our lives, but we cannot boast of any of them. Thus says the Lord: “Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, nor let the rich man glory in his riches , but let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows ME, that I am the Lord” (Jeremiah 9:23, 24). This is quoted in the New Testament with the command, No flesh should glory in God’s presence that He who glories, let him glory in the LORD” (1 Corinthians 1:29,31).

Here's a message to sportspersons: "It is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of GOD who shows mercy" (Romans 9:16). A similar message to able builders like Zerubbabel: "Not by might nor by power, but by MY SPIRIT, says the Lord of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6, 9). Joseph of old was bestowed with the gift of interpreting dreams. When Pharaoh acknowledged it and requested interpretation for his dreams, Joseph said, "It is not in me, God will give the answer" (Genesis 41:15,16).

No prayer can be more aromatic before God than that of the Psalmist in Psalm 115:1, "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but to Your name give glory!" Look at these verses for a similar double emphasis: 1 Chronicles 16:28, Psalm 29:1, 96:7. Even if it is God who crowns us, our heads must be at His feet because He alone is worthy to receive glory and honour and power! (Revelation 4:4,10,11). The Apostles had this spirit overruling them even while they were writing. See how they broke forth into ascribing glory to God while writing their Epistles: Rom 11:36, Galatians 1:5, 2 Timothy 4:18, Hebrews 13:21, 1 Peter 5:11. Shouts of "Amen" before the Epistles end!

**-It will be continued...**

**(Selected from Bro. R. Stanley's book "Here I Stand")**

### **Readers Voice**

We warmly invite our readers to share your views, opinions, feedback, testimonies, and questions related to the contents of this newsletter. Your insights encourage us, enrich others, and help strengthen this growing community of lovers of the word of God.

Selected contributions will be featured each month in the **Readers' Voice** section of the GODependence Newsletter. Let us grow together by learning from one another and by sharing how God's Word is working in our lives.

Your voice matters to us. We look forward to hearing from you.  **+91 95255 95265**



# ZACCHAEUS

## Signs of True Conversion



(Luke 19:1-10)

In Jesus' time, the tax collectors were considered 'sinners.'

Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector. As Jesus was passing through Jericho, Zacchaeus wanted to see him, but being a short man, he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree. When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." He came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

### What is so special about climbing a tree?

For a wealthy tax collector to run and climb a tree had been seen as socially absurd. But Zacchaeus considered seeing Jesus more important than losing his dignity. When Jesus came to his home, Zacchaeus stood up and said, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions

to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." Jesus declared, "Today salvation has come to this house."

Anyone who accepts Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord would show signs of conversion—compassion and restitution for sinful acts done. James 2:17 says, "In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

**Have you exhibited these signs of conversion after you accepted Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord?** If not, please consider whether you have experienced a real conversion. If you realise that your conversion was not real, you can confess your sins and accept Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour and Lord now (Romans 10:9-10).

— **Bro. Peter A. R., Palakkad, Kerala.**

**Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.” – Psalm 119:97**

✨ An opportunity to systematically meditate on the Word of God.

📌 In addition to your regular daily Bible reading, you will need to set aside at least 30 extra minutes specifically for Bible meditation.

📌 Bible meditation portions will be shared three days a week on alternate days.

📌 These Bible Meditation Groups, which were previously conducted in 2020 and 2022, are now being relaunched from July 2026.

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📌 At present, the groups are available in Tamil and English only. They will be available in other languages in the future.

👉 Using the links below, join the language group of your choice today.

**GODependence**  
True freedom is being dependent on God

## Bible Meditation Groups

*"Oh, how I love Your law!  
It is my meditation all the day." Psalm 119:97*

- ★ An opportunity to systematically meditate on the **Word of God**.
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- 🚀 These Bible Meditation Groups, which were previously conducted in 2020 and 2022, are now being relaunched from **July 2026**.
- 🌐 At present, the groups are available in **Tamil and English** only. They will be expanded to other languages in the future.

Further details, explanations, and the necessary training will be shared **within the groups**.

👉 Using the links below, join the language group of your choice today.

TO JOIN THE **ENGLISH** BIBLE MEDITATION GROUP

<https://tinyurl.com/azvuc6pc>

TO JOIN THE **TAMIL** BIBLE MEDITATION GROUP

<https://tinyurl.com/yhk79v3s>

Take this opportunity to cultivate the habit of meditating on **God's Word** alongside your daily Bible reading.

Team **GODependence** | +91 95255 95265

To join the **English Bible** Meditation Group:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/I0JfvT3yJe16OepZsY0AV5>

CLICK HERE ➡

To join the **Tamil Bible** Meditation Group:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/Fi8tDNxzm1Y4xGk8Wd9nWR>

CLICK HERE ➡

📖 \*Further details, explanations, and the necessary training will be shared within the groups.

✨ Take this opportunity to cultivate the habit of meditating on God's Word alongside your daily Bible reading.

🙏 **Team GODependence**

☎ +91 95255 95265

## Bible Reading Challenges

**From 01 August 2026 onwards**

For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.

- Psalms 33:4

"Begin reading your Bible this very day. The way to read the Bible is actually to read it." - J. C. Ryle. We, GODependence, assist you to read the whole Bible at your convenient time and speed.



### BIBLE READING CHALLENGES

*For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.*

- Psalms 33:4

**01 August  
2026  
onwards**

- ① Join one of our Bible reading plans
- ② Start reading at your own convenience
- ③ Scan the QR code to Join

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

 **GODependence**  
**+91 95255 95265**



*Send a WhatsApp Message request in this format:*  
**<Your Name> <Age> <Plan Duration> <Language Group>**

[www.godependence.com/brc](http://www.godependence.com/brc)

The hearer of God's Word ought to be like those animals that chew the cud; he ought not only to feed upon it, but to ruminate upon it. - Augustine

The following are some of the testimonies of our Bible reading challenge participants who successfully read through the Bible:



"This Bible Reading Program helped me grow in God's Word and apply it in my daily life. During challenging situations, it became a source of strength and opened the way for God's blessings in my life and my family." – Ragit Binu



"When we commit ourselves to reading the Bible according to this plan, it cultivates motivation, dedication, and faithfulness within us. This has been my personal experience. Even without realising it, God is shaping and transforming my life through this journey." – Beaulah Enoch



"The reading plan was practical and achievable, enabling me to complete the assigned portions consistently and on time." – Christina Joseph

Do you need any assistance to sustain your Bible-reading efforts? If yes, GODependence invites you to join one of the "Bible Reading Challenges" that start from 01 August 2026 onward.

**Its Special Features are:**

✨ Your choice of Challenge Duration ranges from 1 Month to 1 Year [Reading the whole Bible in 1 month / 2 months / 3 months / 4 months / 6 months or 1 Year].

✨ Your choice of Language group from 11 Languages [English, Tamil, Hindi, Malayalam, Kannada, Telugu, Odia, Punjabi, Marathi, Bengali or Nepali].

## Bible Reading Challenges

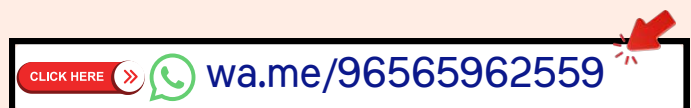
From 01 August 2026 onwards

- ✨ Bible Reading Portion is given daily on the previous night.
- ✨ Daily Motivational Quotes or Clips on reading the Bible.
- ✨ Weekly, BiWeekly & Monthly Reviews to ensure progress.
- ✨ If you fall behind, jump back in! Our reading plan includes Catch-up days & Changing of Plans because we understand real life!
- ✨ User-friendly WhatsApp groups regulations.
- ✨ Certificate of Appreciation and Prizes (\*Conditions apply).

💬 So if you are interested in completing reading the whole Bible, join one of the Challenges we designed for your convenience. Please make your choice of convenient **Duration plan** and **Language group**, and inform us of your decision along with your **Name** (as to be printed in the Appreciation Certificate on successful completion of the Challenge) and **Age** to the WhatsApp number +919525595265 by clicking this link: <https://wa.me/919525595265>

Thank you. God bless you. Amen

- Team GODependence



\*\*\* 🙌 *This message can be shared with all your family members, relatives, Christian friends, and Church members so that they also may get into the habit of reading the Bible in a regular manner!* ”

# GODependence Bible Reading Challenges



## Bible Reading Challenges

*6 Plans in 10\* Languages*

### Reading Planner

\*OUR BIBLE READING CHALLENGES START ON THE **FIRST DAY OF EVERY MONTH.**

#### 1 MONTH READING CHALLENGE

Every day 45 chapters

**Reading time**

2 hours 30 mins

#### 2 MONTHS READING CHALLENGE

Every day 22 chapters

**Reading time**

1 hour 30 mins

#### 3 MONTHS READING CHALLENGE

Every day 15 chapters

**Reading time**

60 minutes

**You can choose a convenient plan**

#### 4 MONTHS READING CHALLENGE

Every day  
11 chapters

**Reading time**

45 minutes

#### 6 MONTHS READING CHALLENGE

Every day  
7 or 8 chapters

**Reading time**

25 minutes

#### 1 YEAR READING CHALLENGE

Every day  
3 or 4 chapters

**Reading time**

15 minutes

**Why delay? Join today!**

**Contact:**  **+965 6596 2559**

*Send a WhatsApp Message request in this format:*

*<Your Name> <Age> <Plan Duration> <Language Group>.*

*\*You can join any reading plan that fits your desire and language.*

*\*Our reading plans are available in English, Tamil, Hindi, Malayalam, Kannada, Telugu, Odia, Punjabi, Marathi and Bengali languages.*

Get your mind stored with Scripture, by diligently reading, and you will soon discover its value and power. - J C Ryle

# GODependence Bible Reading Challenges



## Bible Reading Challenges

### Salient features of GODependence Bible Reading Challenges

1. Your choice of duration ranges from 1 Month to 1 Year. [Reading the whole Bible in 1 month / 2 months/ 3 months/ 4 months / 6 months or 1 Year].
2. Choice of Language - 10 Languages (English, Tamil, Hindi, Malayalam, Kannada, Telugu, Odia, Punjabi, Marathi and Bengali).
3. The Bible Reading portion is shared on the previous night itself.
4. Daily motivational quotes on reading the Bible.
5. Weekly, Bi-Weekly & Monthly reviews to check the Bible reading progress.
6. Catch-up days and Choice of changing the duration plans if required.
7. User-friendly WhatsApp group regulations - Exclusive group for Bible Reading.
8. Certificate of Appreciation and Prizes (conditions apply)
9. No fee is involved anywhere in the process, directly or indirectly.
10. Scope for further engagement with the Word of God (Bible Meditation, Bible Memorization, and Bible Study)

**A wonderful opportunity to read the Bible regularly and systematically at your convenience.**

<https://www.godependence.com/brc>



**BRC admissions for August are underway.**



# Bible Crossword Puzzle-21

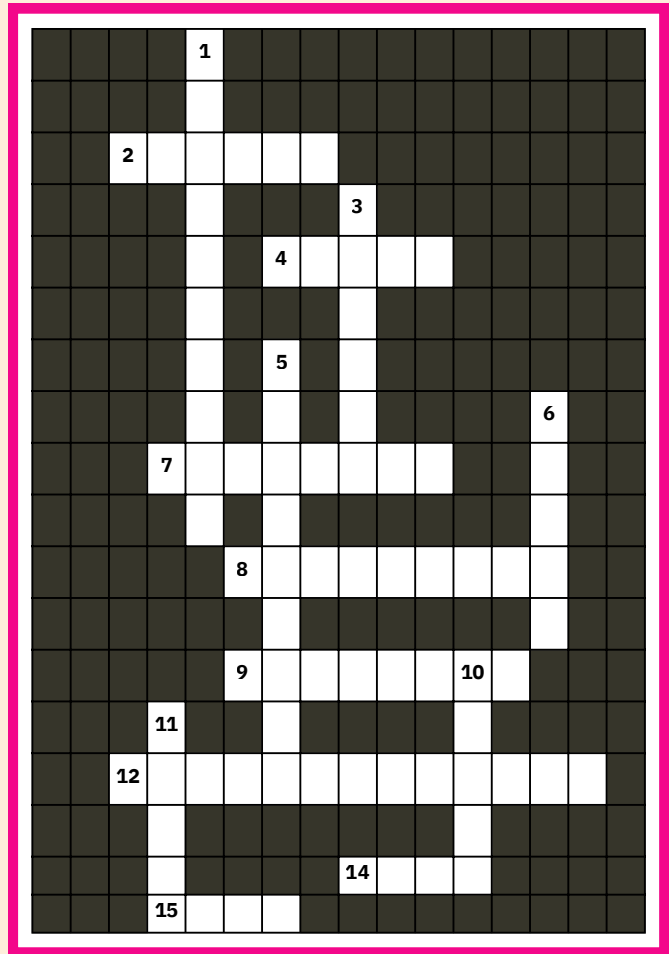
## Scripture Portion 2 Peter

### Across:

- 2 The false teachers followed the way of \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Grow in \_\_\_\_\_ and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- 7 Brotherly \_\_\_\_\_ should be added to godliness.
- 8 Lot was described as a \_\_\_\_\_ man.
- 9 False teachers secretly bring in destructive \_\_\_\_\_
- 12 The Lord is not willing that any should \_\_\_\_\_
- 13 Add to your faith \_\_\_\_\_
- 14 God spared not the old world, but saved \_\_\_\_\_
- 15 Be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without \_\_\_\_\_ and blameless.

### Down

- 1 Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Believers become partakers of the divine \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 God has given us everything we need for life and \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 The heavens will pass away with a great \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 We look for new heavens and a new \_\_\_\_\_
- 11 One day with the Lord is as a thousand \_\_\_\_\_



**Notes :** Send the answers with Bible references.

You can use the Bible to find the answer.



<https://forms.gle/apoaCJnREt9Car4j9>

Click on the given link and send the correct answer before 20/07/2026. The first 10 persons who send the correct answer will be mentioned in the next month's newsletter.

**The names of the people who participated in the Bible Crossword Puzzle - 20 & LET'S PLAY BIBLE GAME - 20 in last month's issue and sent in the correct answers.**

R. Shirley Gainneos  
Regina pandian



**God's Messenger to the Cannibals**  
**Biography of John Paton**  
(1824-1907)

"You may shoot or murder me, but I am your best friend. I am not afraid to die. You will only send me the sooner to my God, whom I love and serve," said the man to the cruel savages who had surrounded him in the village.

They were cannibals, and they had clubs and other weapons in their hands. It appeared as though they were ready for any brutal action. In contrast to them stood John Paton in their midst, calm and courageous, with nothing but love and kindness on his face. He had come as a missionary to tell these people about the love of Christ, but they were ready to kill him.

### **Early life**

John Paton was born in 1824 in Scotland. His parents were godly. His father was a businessman. He was also a man of prayer. There was a room in the house called "the sanctuary." Thrice a day, John's father would go into that room and pour out his heart to God in prayer for his family, for Scotland, and for the world. This godly life challenged John, and later in life, he vowed to walk with God as his saintly father had.

His mother was a godly woman with a strong faith. Once, when John's father was away on business, his mother found out that there was no food in the home. She gathered the hungry children around her and told God all about the need. Then she put them to bed, assuring them that in the morning there would be plenty to eat. The next day, sure enough, plenty of foodstuffs arrived from the father who had not known their need and yet had been led to send all those supplies. The mother told her surprised children, "Oh my children, love your heavenly Father, tell Him in faith and prayer all your needs, and He will supply your wants so far as it should be for your good and His glory." John never forgot this lesson.

At twelve, John was helping his father in the business and was also studying Greek and Latin. He learned much about tools and machinery that was valuable to him later when he became a missionary. John had already accepted Christ as his personal Saviour and was longing to prepare himself to be a servant of the Gospel. The opportunity came for training in a seminary at Glasgow and John left home to join the seminary.

Life in the city of Glasgow was not easy. John studied medicine and theology, and also was teaching in a school to support himself. He joined the Glasgow City Mission to work among the people in the degraded section of the city. For a long time, the work was discouraging but John kept on faithfully. Before he could prove faithful in God's wider vineyard, he had to prove himself in the small place. After ten years of faithful work, he won many to Christ. Several of them had been drunkards and infidels who hated God. In addition to these labours, he was also pursuing his University studies.

## **His call**

For many years, John had a burden for the people who were perishing in other lands without Christ. He felt called to be a missionary to other lands. About this time, John heard that there was a need for a missionary to the New Hebrides to help the missionary who was already there. No one had offered to go, and God's call came to John, "Since no one better has offered to go, rise and offer yourself." He offered himself and was accepted. But his city mission congregation was reluctant to let him go. His friends and acquaintances could not understand why he should leave the work that he was already doing for the Lord and go to a place where the people were cannibals. One old man said, "Don't go, young man. It will be dangerous, and you'll be eaten by the cannibals." John Paton smiled and replied, "You are advanced in years now, and you will soon be laid in the grave, there to be eaten by worms, if I can but live and die serving and honoring the Lord Jesus, it will make no difference to me whether I am eaten by cannibals or by worms," His parents were willing to let John follow God's leading for his life. Thus, John Paton sailed for the New Hebrides with his newlywed wife in 1858 at the age of thirty-four.

## **New Hebrides: Among Cannibals**

The New Hebrides is a group of islands in the South Pacific, 1,400 miles northeast of Australia. The people who lived there were very primitive and degraded. They practised cannibalism and other horrible cruelties. To kill a human being was nothing unusual. Were they brave because they did so much killing? No, it was really fear of evil spirits that forced them to kill. To keep off the evil spirits, they had many idols, charms, and witch doctors. These witch doctors had tremendous power and influence among the people. They had no idea of natural death. They believed that every death was caused by witchcraft, and immediately they would hold a meeting to determine who caused the death. When they finally

found out someone who was known to have been unfriendly with the dead man, the chief would load a rifle (which they got from the traders who often came to the islands) and give it to a young man, whose duty was to lie in wait to shoot the victim. Then the friends of the slain man would try to kill the one who shot him, and so on, until whole tribes were wiped out because of the death of one man, who probably died of natural causes. When the husband died, the widow was strangled and put into her husband's grave. Old people were clubbed to death because they were a burden. Demons and spirits of ancestors were worshipped. These people had never heard about Christ.

It was to these people that Christian missionaries went, taking the Gospel. The first missionaries were clubbed to death and eaten by the natives immediately after their arrival. Other missionaries who followed were either killed or compelled to flee. But by the time John Paton arrived, there were already two missionary couples labouring in spite of opposition and hardship, and they had a few converts also.

## **In Tanna**

Tanna was one island in the New Hebrides, which had so far resisted any attempt to plant the gospel seed. The witch doctors or sacred men were the greatest hindrance to the gospel because they knew that if the people responded to the gospel, their power would end. So whenever there was a natural calamity, such as a storm or drought, they induced the people to kill the missionaries, saying that they were the cause of the trouble. Hindrance also came from white traders who stirred up the natives against the missionaries because the missionaries were a hindrance to their evil exploitations of the natives.

It was to such an island that John Paton came with his wife. When he landed in Tanna, Paton found the painted savages to be gentle. Perhaps they were more curious to see him and the things he had brought. Even as Paton was building his wooden house on the soil of Tanna, there was a cannibal feast in progress a mile away. With a burdened heart, Paton longed for the salvation of these savages.

The people of Tanna had no written language, and so he talked to them in sign language. One day he discovered the native words for "What is it?" and for "What is your name?" By continually asking these two questions and writing down the answer, he learned the names of things and people. Then by listening to other words he gradually learned the language.

**--To be continued--**

**[From "Servants of the Cross" by Theodore Williams, IEM Outreach Publications]**

God's Word is the Truth. And His Truth says you are a holy and dearly loved child of your heavenly Father. - **Lysa TerKeurst**



## DID YOU KNOW?

### What Is the Secret of Life on Earth?

#### (Part 2 – The Sun)

Life on Earth greatly depends on a precise set of conditions related to the Sun.

1. Distance from the Sun (about 149.6 million km) places Earth in the "habitable zone."

If Earth were much closer, oceans could evaporate. If much farther away, water could freeze.

2. Stable Solar Radiation (1361 W per sq. metre of the Earth's surface).

Too much radiation → extreme heating. Too little radiation → global freezing.

3. Surface Temperature of the Sun (5778 K)

This temperature produces the right spectrum of visible light for photosynthesis, climate balance, and biological processes.

The above and many more factors about the Sun are essential for life to exist on Earth.

**How did all these factors precisely fall in place? Science has no answer, but the Bible does.**

"For this is what the Lord says—he who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; **he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited**—he says: 'I am the Lord, and there is no other.'" (Isaiah 45:18).

**Read the Bible to understand the wonders of the universe and human life.**



#### Did you know?

**Which king became an animal-like wanderer because of his pride?**

King Nebuchadnezzar lost his sanity because of pride and lived like a wild animal until he humbled himself before God (Daniel 4:33-37).

#### Did you know?

**Which king wrote a song of repentance after his sin was exposed?**

King David wrote Psalm 51 after the prophet Nathan confronted him about his sin with



# GODependence Social Media sites

## GODependence WhatsApp Channel

This is the Official whatsapp channel of GODependence in English...

Kindly keep following this channel for the Daily Quotes in English and the regular updates on Bible Reading Challenges from GODependence. Thank you.

 <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029VaCtY5W72WTqI9nZKW28>



## Contact Numbers for the Bible Reading Challenges:

GODependence is using the following contact numbers for Bible Reading Challenges in various languages.

You can contact the appropriate number to enroll into a particular language Bible Reading Challenge groups.

-  Tamil - +965 6596 2559
-  English - +91 95255 95265
-  Other Languages - +91 99628 34944

[Hindi, Malayalam, Kannada, Telugu, Odia, Punjabi, Marathi or Bengali]

## GODependence Youtube Channel

GODependence Youtube Channel has reached 230 Subscribers and 86 Videos.



 <https://www.youtube.com/@godependenceenglish>



The Word of God is like a lion. You don't have to defend a lion. All you have to do is let the lion loose, and the lion will defend itself. - Charles Spurgeon

# GODependence Bible Reading Challenges

**Congratulations to the Successful Participants as on 30 June 2026**



GODependence Bible Reading Challenges

**Congratulations to the Successful Participants as on 30 June 2026**

## 1 Month Bible Reading Challenge

- K. Lediakingsly
- M John flora thanks
- R Padmavathi
- Shunmugiah.M

*Congratulations!*



GODependence

+965 6596 2559

Prize & Certificate will be send to them in due time



GODependence Bible Reading Challenges

**Congratulations to the Successful Participants as on 30 June 2026**

## 2 Months Bible Reading Challenge

- P.Jamunarani
- P.Pavithra
- Shirley Sagayam
- T.Premala Kumari
- J. Beul Padmavathy
- Jensepriya David
- Shanthi.sankaran@gmail.com
- D. Grace Hepsiba Paul

*Congratulations!*



GODependence

+965 6596 2559

Prize & Certificate will be send to them in due time



GODependence Bible Reading Challenges

**Congratulations to the Successful Participants as on 30 June 2026**

## 3 Months Bible Reading Challenge

- D Esther Annal
- Josephine Jeya Amos
- S. Prema Vasantha Rani
- Marine Phelsia
- Ezech God'spower
- Lingampalli Sravani
- வயலட்சுபீனா பானுடி. ஐ
- S. JesiJeevaratnam
- Beulah Enoch
- Blessiya R
- D. PRIMROSE JEBAMARY
- Jansi Gopinath
- Dhanachelvi
- Vinoth Rexin Raj
- Pugalanthi M
- R.PRASATH
- Jacquilin Radha

*Congratulations!*



GODependence

+965 6596 2559

Certificate will be send to them in due time



GODependence Bible Reading Challenges

**Congratulations to the Successful Participants as on 30 June 2026**

## 4 Months Bible Reading Challenge

- Paul Chandra Raja G J
- Nirmala Beniel

*Congratulations!*



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GODependence Bible Reading Challenges

**Congratulations to the Successful Participants as on 30 June 2026**

## 6 Months Bible Reading Challenge

- Koyalvizhi A
- Teens
- Sheeba Mathew
- Arunpal singh
- Ch vijay paul
- Deborah Jebi Fletcher
- Subha Raja
- L.Antony Immaculate
- Dr p Meena
- EstherMaharajan
- G.Priscilla Sheela Theenmozhi
- Hadlaw Oliver
- J.Sheela selvarani
- Jasmine Jasudoss
- Pamilla Jean P
- Paul Chandra Raja G J
- Rahel Priya Amirtharaj
- Sony R
- Sweety selvarani.J
- துமித்திரி
- Jency Jayaraj
- D. Kalomary
- E.Devo Anbu
- JOHNSON DURAI PANDIAN J
- Mrs.Selami Edwin
- Navaratnam mary Agnes
- P.Thilagavathy.
- Probavathy R
- Prof.A.MariaSagayam
- Rev D Andrew Christopher Barnabas
- S. Nirmala Regima
- Vijayakumar . S
- G.S.Rajaa
- Jazmin Arudhas
- M.Ranneerselvam
- P.Anithamary
- பார்வதாரி
- இளங்கோவியா
- Jancy Debid
- Cecil Joseph Turner
- Baskararaj
- J NICKSON SOLOMON
- K sarevana moorthy
- ஜார்வாஸ்
- P pamilla jean
- J. NICKSON SOLOMON
- Vasanthi Joseph
- J.Jothi Jebareni
- D Malethi
- A. Evelyn Packia
- M Latha
- K. Sarevana moorthy
- M.Chandramohan RTD Eto. H.M.
- J sheeba Dinakaran
- Sovitha
- Murugeswari
- Mrs.S.Giftin Lilly
- Mnandhini
- Selvin Iruthayeraj
- M.Chandramohan
- Mrs.S. Giftin Lilly
- P.joye raj
- Rev Dr ARUN CHRISTOPHER

*Congratulations!*



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Certificate will be send to them in due time



GODependence Bible Reading Challenges

**Congratulations to the Successful Participants as on 30 June 2026**

## 1 Year Bible Reading Challenge

- Christiana Joseph
- Adebayo Taiwo Kazeem
- Ragit Binu
- Pavithrasuresh
- Mary Anitha K
- Pauline J
- D.Samuel Sugantha Kumar
- P Mano santha
- Devaputhri Jemima S
- Sulochana Mathivanan
- Winfred Francis E
- S. Beulah
- A.MABEL
- A. Stellamary

*Congratulations!*



GODependence

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Certificate will be send to them in due time

You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me. - John 5:39

# LET'S PLAY BIBLE GAME - 21

From the given pictures find the verses from

Scripture Portion: 2 Peter



**Notes :** Send the answers with Bible references.  
You can use the Bible (NKJV) to find the answer.

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



<https://forms.gle/uycRwhYcZbkKxtH3A>

Click on the given link and send the correct answer before 20/07/2026.

The first 10 persons who send the correct answer will be mentioned  
in the next month's newsletter.

The more I have read the Bible and studied the life of Jesus, the more I have become convinced that Christianity spreads best not through force but through fascination.

- Shane Claiborne

## Answers

Last month let's play Bible game-20 & Bible Crossword Puzzle -20

correct answers

### Bible Crossword Puzzle - 20

Across:

- MILK — 1 Peter 2:2
- CORNERSTONE — 1 Peter 2:6
- ORACLES — 1 Peter 4:11
- BABYLON — 1 Peter 5:13
- SILVANUS — 1 Peter 5:12
- DEVIL — 1 Peter 5:8

Down:

- PONTUS — 1 Peter 1:1
- GRACE — 1 Peter 1:10
- WATER — 1 Peter 3:20
- FOREKNOWLEDGE — 1 Peter 1:2
- LORD — 1 Peter 3:6
- ORDEAL — 1 Peter 4:12
- LUSTS — 1 Peter 1:14
- ROYAL — 1 Peter 2:9

### Let's play Bible game-20

- 1). 1 Peter 2:21
- 2). 1 Peter 1:24
- 3). 1 Peter 3:22
- 4). 1 Peter 5:8
- 5). 1 Peter 5:6
- 6). 1 Peter 4:7
- 7). 1 Peter 2:3
- 8). 1 Peter 5:7
- 9). 1 Peter 3:4
- 10). 1 Peter 1:7

### Editorial Team

- Pethuru Devadason
- Arputharaj Samuel
- J.I.A. Easter Raj
- Peter A R
- D. Densingh
- Darwin Nesakumar A
- Shoba Daniel
- Josephine Shiny Paul
- Catherine Suji

You do not base your belief that Jesus is the Saviour from sin upon the fact that somebody is saved or says he is saved, but you base it upon the Word of the living God, and there you stand. - John Alexander Dowie

# Bible Book Overview - 2 Peter

## 2 Peter

**Time of Writing:** A.D. 67  
**Time of Events:** A.D. 67

**Author of the Book:** Peter the Apostle  
**Type of Book:** Letter

### Introduction to the Book

- Like Peter's first letter, this also is written in letter form. It is closely related to the Epistle of Jude. Since it is a later letter, it reflects a more developed Christian understanding concerning Christ.

### Context and Purpose

- At that time many false teachers arose and distorted the truth, leading people into wrong ways of living (2:2). It was this situation that prompted the writing of this letter. Seeing false teachers infiltrating the churches, Peter called Christians to grow strong in their faith so that they could recognize and resist the spreading apostasy. He strongly emphasized the reliability of God's Word and the certainty of the Lord Jesus Christ's return.

### Key Verses

2 Peter 1:3–4, 2 Peter 3:9, 2 Peter 3:18

### Summary of the Book

- Peter teaches that believers must gain a true knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ. This knowledge has been handed down through the apostles who personally saw and heard Jesus. Because some were saying that Christ would not return, Peter once again stresses the certainty of His return. Peter explains that Christ delays His coming because He desires that no one should perish but that everyone should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). Realizing that his own time was short (2 Peter 1:13–15), and seeing the immediate danger confronting the churches (2 Peter 2:1–3), Peter urged believers to refresh their memory concerning these truths (2 Peter 1:13; 3:1–2). He encouraged them to remember his teachings (2 Peter 1:15) and challenged believers to mature in their faith by adding specific Christian virtues. The writers of both the Old and New Testaments were presented as authorities for their faith (2 Peter 1:12–21; 3:2; 3:15–16). Therefore, Peter wanted believers to be strong in faith so that they could oppose the false teachers who had entered and caused great harm in the churches. In condemning them, Peter described their conduct and character (2 Peter chapter 2). These false teachers also mocked the Second Coming of the Lord (2 Peter 3:3–7). Therefore, Peter taught that Christ's return should be an incentive for holy living (2 Peter 3:14).

### Jesus Christ in the Book

- In condemning false prophets, Peter echoes themes found in the Old Testament. His readers would have been familiar with these teachings. Early Christians were well instructed in the Law and the Prophets. In 2 Peter 1:19–21, when Peter refers to the "prophetic word" of the Old Testament, he affirms that the Lord condemned false prophets and that true prophets spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

### Practical Application

- Certainly, we who are Christians in the twenty-first century are much closer to our Lord's return than the Christians of the first century to whom this letter was originally written. Through television and other means of communication, we know that many mature Christians are emerging as genuine Christian leaders, while many immature Christians are being misled by incorrect interpretations of Scripture. All born-again Christians must be firmly grounded in the Lord's Word. Only then can we distinguish truth from error. When we apply in our lives the same formula for spiritual growth that Peter gave (2 Peter 1:5–11), we will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:10–11). The foundation of our faith must always remain the same Word of God that Peter preached.

### Structure of the Book

1. Introduction (Greeting) — 1:1–2
2. The Christian Calling — 1:3–21
3. False Prophets and False Teachers — 2:1–22
4. The Return of the Lord — 3:1–18

# History of the Punjabi Bible

-Pastor. Jaras Masih



History of the  
Punjabi Bible

The history of the Punjabi Bible is a story of profound dedication by missionaries who overcame significant linguistic and cultural barriers to bring the Scriptures to the Punjabi-speaking people. The journey began in the early 19th century and continues to evolve through various modern versions.

## The Pioneers and Timeline (1815-1832)

The translation of the Bible into Punjabi was primarily the work of **British missionaries**. Key figures and their contributions include:

- **William Carey:** An English missionary who arrived in Kolkata in 1793 and spearheaded the translation efforts.
- **Joshua Marshman and William Ward:** English missionaries who arrived in 1799 and collaborated closely with Carey on the project.
- **John Newton:** An American missionary who arrived in 1835 and lived in Ludhiana, playing a vital role in the later stages of the work.

The translation was released in stages: the **New Testament was first translated in 1815**, followed by the first five books of the Old Testament in **1820**. By 1832, the full Punjabi Bible was completed and ready for distribution.

## Original Languages of Translation

The Punjabi Bible was translated from the original biblical languages to ensure accuracy. The **Old Testament** was translated from **Hebrew and Aramaic**, while the **New Testament** was translated from **Koine Greek**.

## Versions of the Punjabi Bible

To date, approximately eight different versions of the Punjabi Bible have been printed. These include:

- **BSI Old Version:** The most prevalent and widely read version today.
- **Punjabi Standard Version (PSB):** A widely used contemporary version.

Unless we form the habit of going to the Bible in bright moments as well as in trouble, we cannot fully respond to its consolations because we lack equilibrium between light and darkness. - **Helen Keller**

- **Easy to Read Version (RV):** Designed for modern accessibility.
- **Biblical Open Punjabi Contemporary Version (OPCV):** A common modern translation.
- **Indian Revised Version (IRV):** A significantly revised edition.
- **Gurmukhi Version:** Previously popular, though its printing has currently ceased.
- **Common Language (CL) Version:** Aimed at general readers.

## Challenges in Translation

The early translators faced monumental obstacles, primarily the **language barrier**. These missionaries were from foreign countries and did not initially know Punjabi. They struggled to translate concepts from Hebrew and Aramaic into a language they were still learning.

Additionally, **cultural differences** posed a challenge. Many English words or biblical concepts did not have direct equivalents in Punjabi, and literal translations often failed to capture the correct **idiomatic meaning**. At the time, they also lacked local resources or assistants who could facilitate a more natural translation.

## Printing and Distribution

The very first Punjabi Bible was printed at the Serampore Press in Kolkata. Later, the Bible Society established a printing press in Bangalore, which remains the primary location where Punjabi Bibles are printed and distributed today.

## The Need for Modern Revision

Scholars today emphasise that there is still a significant **need for updated Punjabi translations**. Because many of the current versions are based on the work completed in 1832, they require **modern linguistic development**. There is a call for new readers and scholars to contribute to improving the **accuracy of words and sentences** to ensure the message remains clear and culturally relevant for current and future generations.

**-Pastor. Jaras Masih**

(If you have any questions regarding the Punjabi Bible translation, Please send them.  
The author will respond in the next month's issue.)

**Your Name, Place, Family, Christian Background & Upbringing:**

Praise the Lord. My name is Jeyarani. I was born into a Christian family and was raised according to Christian values and teachings. Bible reading has been a part of my life since my younger days.

**How many times have you read the entire Bible so far? How many of them were through the GODependence program?**

I have read the Bible many times. However, in the beginning, I read it mainly as a duty. I gave more importance to the books of Psalms and Proverbs and did not pay equal attention to the rest of the Bible. During the COVID-19 period, my brother introduced me to the GODependence Bible Reading Plans. After joining these plans, I participated in the one-month, two-month, and one-year Bible reading programs. Through these plans, I have been able to read the entire Bible multiple times.

**How did the GODependence Plan help you develop an interest in Bible reading?**

The GODependence Bible Reading Plan helped me develop a consistent habit of reading the Bible. More importantly, it gave me the opportunity to meditate deeply on God's Word while reading. The Old Testament was a section that I had often neglected and rarely read before. Through this reading plan, I was encouraged to read it more thoroughly and learned many valuable truths from it. The plan helped me gain a deeper understanding of God, His blessings, His warnings, His commandments, His guidance, His grace, and His mercy. Therefore, this Bible reading plan has been a great blessing and benefit to my spiritual life.

**What impact has Bible reading had on your life?**

One verse that deeply touched me was Proverbs 28:9: "If anyone turns a deaf ear to my instruction, even their prayers are detestable." When I read this verse, I realized that if I did not give importance to God's Word, then no matter how much I prayed, my prayers could be displeasing to God. This convicted my heart, and I felt genuine sorrow and repentance. Since then, I have been making every effort to live according to God's Word. In many areas of my life, God has helped me to do so. Through His Word, He has comforted me, strengthened me, and guided me. I believe He will continue to lead me in the days ahead.

**Finally, what would you like to say in a few words?**

I encourage everyone to read the Bible regularly and understand its greatness. We must apply God's Word to our daily lives. Through obedience to His Word, we can receive God's blessings.

The Word of God is the essential spiritual nourishment for our lives. By reading, meditating on, and obeying the Scriptures, we can live victoriously in this world and overcome its challenges.

Therefore, I encourage everyone to participate in Bible reading plans like GODependence. Such plans help us remain disciplined in our Bible reading and grow spiritually. May you experience God's guidance and blessings through His Word.

All glory be to the name of God. Amen. 🙏

1

## Bible Readathons in July 2026

During June 2026, Telugu Bible Readathon was conducted on 27 June 2026 (Saturday) from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM (Indian Standard Time) with the enthusiastic participation of many volunteers.

For this month, the Bible Readathon will be held on 31 July 2026 (Friday) from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM (Indian Standard Time) in Malayalam language.

We warmly invite those who have a reliable internet connection and are able to read the Bible fluently in Malayalam to participate in this event.



2

## Bible Reading Challenges (BRC) groups in Nepali - from July 2026

GODependence Bible Reading Challenges, which are currently conducted in 10 languages, have now been expanded to include Nepali from July 2026. The Nepali Bible Reading Challenges have been launched with four groups, each consisting of 10 participants. Please pray that new participants will continue to join these groups every month and that this ministry will grow steadily and continue effectively in the days ahead.



3

## GODependence Talkshow - July 2026

We were unable to organize a GODependence Talk Show this month. God willing, we plan to conduct an informative and beneficial Talk Show on a meaningful topic next month.



4

## Bible Meditation Groups (BMG) - from 15 July 2026

Following the GODependence Talk Shows conducted over the past two months, those who are interested in joining our Bible Meditation Groups, which will be initiated from 15 July 2026, are invited to join the WhatsApp group using the link below:

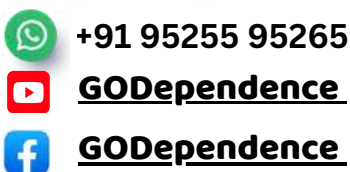
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/JOJfvT3yJe16OepZsYoAV5>

More details have been given the Page 11 of this month's newsletter. Further details and trainings will be given in the BMG WhatsApp groups.



FOLLOW US!

**GODependence Bible Reading Challenges**



CONTACT:

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