

66
WAYS
GOD
LOVES YOU

Experience God's Love for You in Every Book of the Bible

Jennifer Rothschild



When I was eight years old, Grandma Sarah gave me a red leather bible. I carried it to church every Sunday, and I tried to read it even though the King James Version was way over my head as a third grader! But I loved my Bible. I loved the smell of the leather! I loved the sound the pages made as they turned beneath my fingers. I loved what I read—that God loved me—third grade me—with an everlasting love. Deep down, I knew there was something holy, something “other” about it. Something deep within me knew that just like the glue on the binding held its pages together, the truth in its pages would somehow hold me together too.

And it did.

When I turned fifteen, my world fell apart. I could no longer read the words in my red leather Bible because I couldn’t see them. I became blind due to a retinal disease, and I could no longer read it. But the truth in its pages did hold me together—and its truth still does.

Now, as a grown-up blind woman, I use other



versions of the Bible along with the King James and I no longer finger through those thin, oniony pages—I listen to the Bible on audio and through apps on my computer and phone instead.

But no matter how I experience the Bible, it always has the same effect on me. One profound, unavoidable, irreducible, soul-quaking effect—I feel the love of God.

I want that for you too. God deeply loves you—He loves you with an everlasting love.

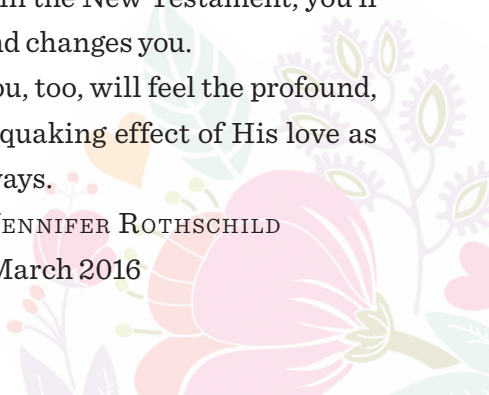
So God tells you in sixty-six ways . . . in each and every book of the Bible.

From Genesis to Revelation, you'll see how much you matter to God. As you read through the history and poetry in the Old Testament books, you'll be reminded that God knows you and sees you and loves you no matter what. As you experience the Gospels and letters in the New Testament, you'll feel how His love challenges and changes you.

My prayer for you is that you, too, will feel the profound, unavoidable, irreducible, soul-quaking effect of His love as you experience it in sixty-six ways.

JENNIFER ROTHCHILD

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*In Genesis
God Fashions Me
with His Hands*

In the beginning God created. He said, “Let there be light” and there was light! He spoke it. He commanded it. He just said it and it was! He called into existence that which had never existed before.

Every word became our world. Stars and planets. Shimmering sunshine and fierce lightning. Mountains and oceans. Forests and animals. Birds and sea creatures. Towering trees and tiny flowers. God’s voice initiated all creation. All except man. God did not speak man into being because man was different—man was loved. “The LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being” (Genesis 2:7 MEV). Our beautiful Creator stooped down and got the dirt of this earth on His hands to give us life. God used His hands, His touch, to craft us—the crowning jewel of all His handiwork. And after He formed man, He gently fashioned a



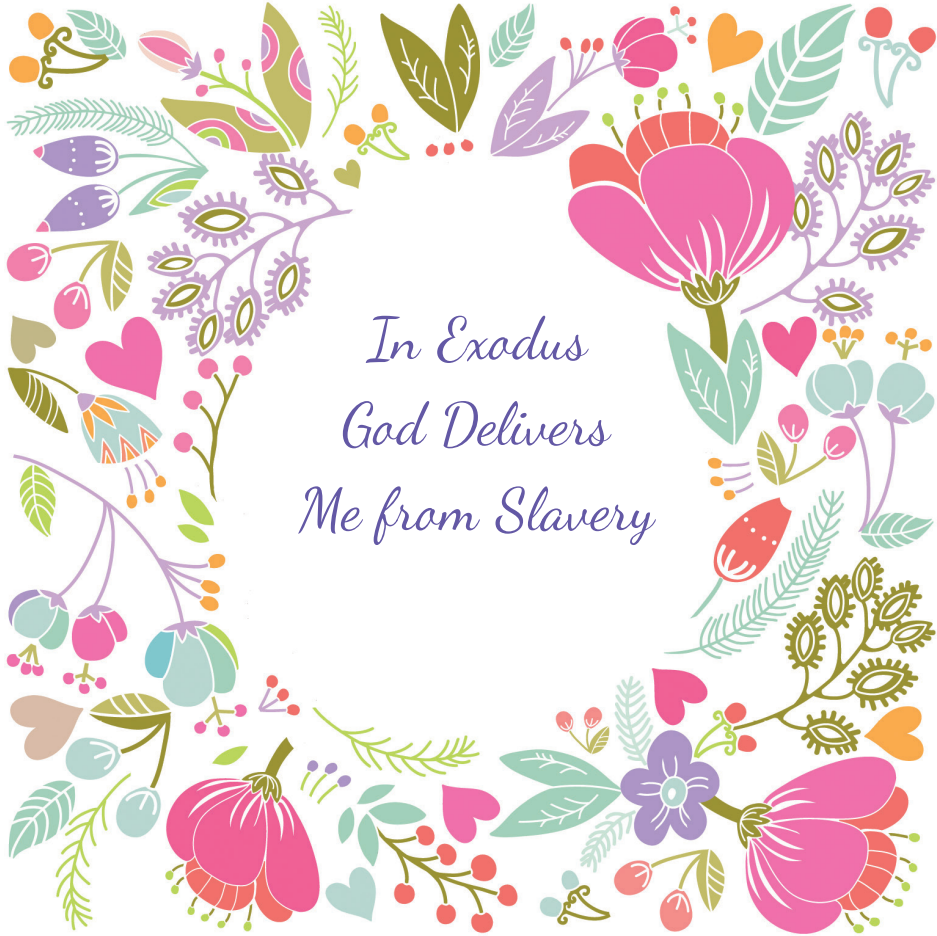


woman from the rib of Adam with those same hands. He lovingly shaped her to reflect the beauty of her Creator.

God could have spoken you and me into existence, too. But He chose that we—His beloved ones—would bear His fingerprints. His touch separates us from all created things. It honors us above all other created beings. His touch on our lives constantly reminds us that we are loved.

You aren't just the result of God's verbal command to some genetic matter. You are the result of the loving Hand of God that reached all the way from heaven to touch you and make you His own. And He is still reaching and still touching you. "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good" (Genesis 1:31). Can you see His fingerprints on your life? Thank God today for His loving touch, and ask Him to keep creating you to be the beautiful person He loves.



A vibrant, hand-drawn floral wreath in various colors (pink, purple, green, orange, blue) frames the central text. The wreath includes large flowers, smaller blossoms, leaves, and heart-shaped accents.

*In Exodus
God Delivers
Me from Slavery*



For more than four hundred years, the Israelites were slaves in Egypt. They were stuck, mistreated, and without rights, yet they were still God's people. He had not forgotten His beloved. Suddenly, in flames of love and fury, God spoke through a burning bush. "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out. . . . So I have come down to rescue them" (Exodus 3:7–8). The Israelites wondered for centuries of if God really loved them, and one day His love set a bush ablaze before Moses' eyes. And God's love set about rescuing His people. When the people were finally free, Moses sang, "In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling" (15:13).

Just as God delivered His people from the slavery of Egypt, He delivers you from whatever you are powerless to rescue yourself from. Because He has "set His love upon you" (Deuteronomy



7:7 KJV), He sets you free from the slavery of sin, insecurity, fear, and despair. He frees you to trust and follow Him into all the promises He has for you. Just as He said, “the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them” (Exodus 3:9), your cry for freedom has reached His heart too. He loves you, and He sees what you are going through. He knows what oppresses you, what depresses you, and from what you long to gain your freedom.

God’s love rescues you! He can break the chains that keep you stuck in your Egypt. Ask Him to set you free today. You can trust His mighty, loving Hand to keep rescuing you and setting you free.

Commemorate this day, the day you came out of Egypt . . . because the Lord brought you out of it with a mighty hand. (13:3)





*In Leviticus
God Grants Me
Access to Him*

God loves you so much that He made a way for you to come to Him, know Him, and love Him. Yet true access to God demands a true understanding of Him, so God gave us Leviticus.

In Leviticus, God drew His people to know Him as He really is—pure and holy. He loved them too much to let them settle for a false god or a reduction of His holy character. God devised ways for His people to experience a holy relationship with Him—He gave them rules. The rules weren't a way to earn a relationship with Him. Rather, they were to guide the Israelites' relationship with Him. The rules kept their hearts focused on the true God and brought them security.

Just as a loving parent provides protective boundaries for her child, God provides rules for us, His children. But it isn't following the rules and staying in the boundaries that win God's favor; we already have His favor because we have His Son, Jesus.

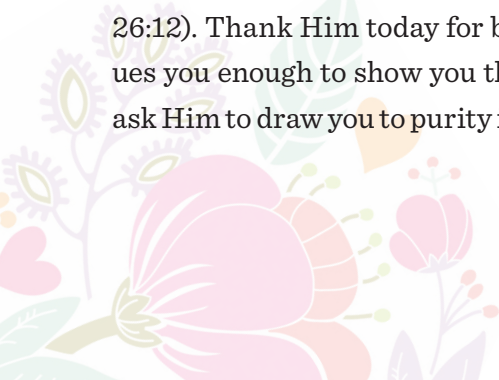




Because God loves us, He lets us know what is expected. He gives us rules and boundaries so we can approach Him with faith and purity. He gives us His commandments, and “His commands are not burdensome” (1 John 5:3).

Because God loves you, He makes a way for you to come to Him through His Son Jesus, and He also gives you rules so you can enjoy your best life with Him. But don’t let the rules trip you up—God uses them as guard rails to keep you walking with and toward Him. And don’t let any rules from God become a substitute for a relationship with God. “This is what the LORD has commanded you to do, so that the glory of the LORD may appear to you” (Leviticus 9:6).

God wants you to come to Him, know Him, and be with Him because He loves you. He promises, “I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people” (Leviticus 26:12). Thank Him today for being a loving Father who values you enough to show you the way to walk with Him, and ask Him to draw you to purity in your relationship with Him.





IF: GATHERING

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