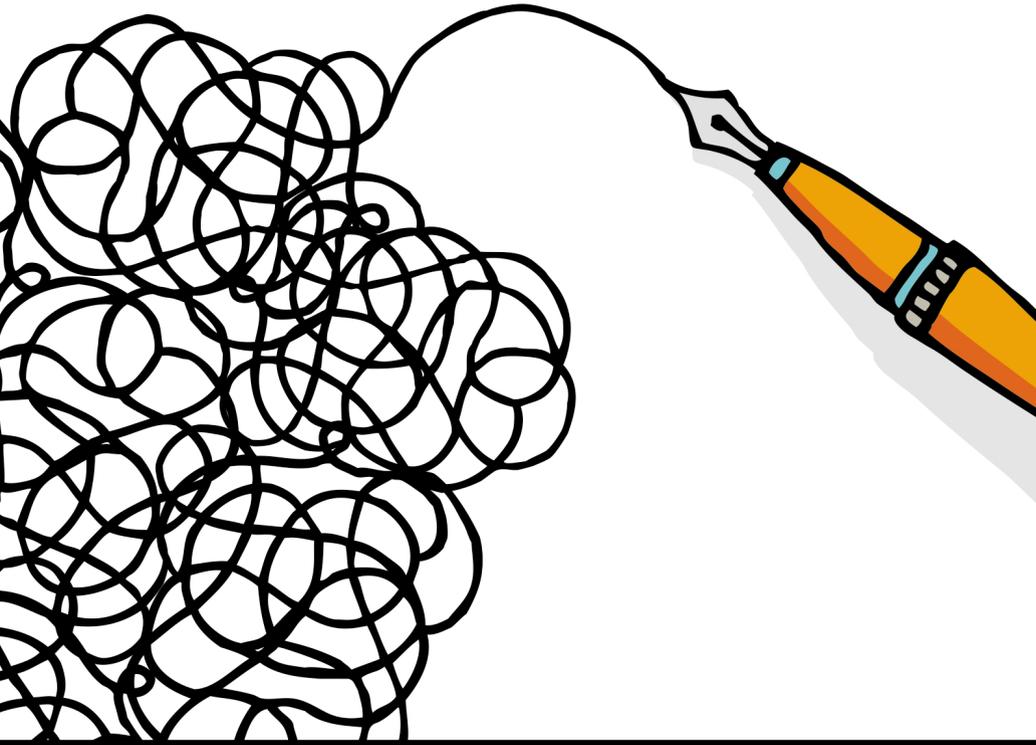


the writings



THE

NEW INTERNATIONAL READER'S VERSION

# BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

for kids

LEARN FROM STORIES, POETRY, AND SONGS

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# introduction to The Writings

*The Writings is a collection of books written many years ago. The Writings is part of a much bigger collection known as “the Bible.”*

*Long ago, God created the world. Everything he made was good. But creation turned its back on God. Suddenly, the whole world was caught up in sin and death.*

*So God set out to rescue his good creation—to save us from sin and death. He promised a man named Abraham that his family would bring blessing to all nations and make things right.*

*Years later, God made a covenant, a very serious agreement, with Abraham’s grandchildren’s grandchildren. This agreement made these people a “kingdom of priests” and a “holy nation” for God. It taught them how to live well. They would help the world know and obey God. The covenant had promises called blessings for the nation if they obeyed God. It also promised curses if they disobeyed.*

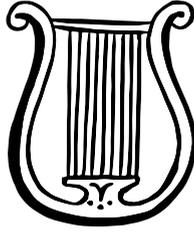
*Sadly, the nation of Israel seemed to always live like the rest of the world, caught up in sin and death. Because one king disobeyed so badly, Israel split into two nations, Israel and Judah.*

*The Writings is full of different kinds of writing. It begins with poetry. These are often the words of songs. Sometimes the people sang to God because he was powerful and saved them. Other times they sang because they were sad and scared. It seems like they had a song for every situation in life. We can make these songs our own to give us words for our deep feelings.*

*Another kind of writing is wisdom. These are wise sayings and comments about life that are true most of the time. They describe how life seems to work, not that something will always be true.*

*Then there is history in the Writings. Chronicles—Ezra—Nehemiah tell the story of Israel from the beginning of time until the city of Jerusalem is rebuilt after the people returned from Babylon. It tells the same story as Genesis to Samuel—Kings, but in a different way.*

*The books of Esther and Daniel finish the Writings, and you will read more about them later.*



## DAY 1 PSALMS, PART 1

### introduction to Psalms, parts 1-13

*The book of Psalms is 150 songs. The writers and singers sang for different reasons. Sometimes they simply wanted to praise God because he is good and powerful and the true King of creation. Other times they wanted to thank God for giving them things and protecting them. Sometimes they needed something, so they sang their prayer to ask God to protect them or provide for them.*

*These three main types of psalms also had different purposes. A praise psalm might celebrate God's justice, his loving kindness, his care for creation, or his rule over creation. A prayer psalm might ask for forgiveness or healing. It might ask God to deliver the people from their enemies or to destroy their enemies. Israel even had psalms for special times. They sang at weddings or when they put the crown on a new king for the first time. They sang to commit themselves to God's laws again. They also sang as they climbed the steep hills into Jerusalem to worship God at the temple.*

*See if you can figure out what kind of psalm each one is as you read it.*



### **Psalm 1**

Blessed is the person who obeys the law of the LORD.

They don't follow the advice of evil people.

They don't make a habit of doing what sinners do.

They don't join those who make fun of the LORD and his law.

Instead, the law of the LORD gives them joy.

They think about his law day and night.

That kind of person is like a tree that is planted near a stream  
of water.

It always bears its fruit at the right time.

Its leaves don't dry up.

Everything godly people do turns out well.

Sinful people are not like that at all.

They are like straw

that the wind blows away.

When the LORD judges them, their life will come to an end.

Sinners won't have any place among those who are godly.

The LORD watches over the lives of godly people.

But the lives of sinful people will lead to their death.

## Psalm 2

Why do the nations plan evil together?

Why do they make useless plans?

The kings of the earth rise up against the LORD.

The rulers of the earth join together against his anointed  
king.

"Let us break free from their chains," they say.

"Let us throw off their ropes."

The God who sits on his throne in heaven laughs.

The Lord makes fun of those rulers and their plans.

When he is angry, he warns them.

When his anger blazes out, he terrifies them.

He says to them,

"I have placed my king on my holy mountain of Zion."

I will announce what the LORD has promised.

He said to me, "You are my son.

Today I have become your father.

Ask me, and I will give the nations to you.

All nations on earth will belong to you.

You will break them with an iron scepter.  
 You will smash them to pieces like clay pots.”

Kings, be wise!

Rulers of the earth, be warned!

Serve the LORD and have respect for him.

Celebrate his rule with trembling.

Obeys the son completely, or he will be angry.

Your way of life will lead to your death.

His anger can blaze out at any moment.

Blessed are all those who go to him for safety.

### Psalm 4

*For the director of music. A psalm of David to  
 be played on stringed instruments.*

My faithful God,

answer me when I call out to you.

Give me rest from my trouble.

Have mercy on me. Hear my prayer.

How long will you people turn my glory into shame?

How long will you love what will certainly fail you?

How long will you pray to statues of gods?

Remember that the LORD has set apart his faithful servant for  
 himself.

The LORD hears me when I call out to him.

Tremble and do not sin.

When you are in bed,

look deep down inside yourself and be silent.

Offer to the LORD the sacrifices that godly people offer.

Trust in him.

LORD, many are asking, “Who will make us successful?”

LORD, may you do good things for us.

Fill my heart with joy

when the people have lots of grain and fresh wine.

In peace I will lie down and sleep.

LORD, you alone keep me safe.

## Psalm 8

*For the director of music. According to gittith. A psalm of David.*

LORD, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in the whole earth!

You have set your glory  
in the heavens.

You have made sure that children  
and infants praise you.

Their praise is a wall  
that stops the talk of your enemies.

I think about the heavens.

I think about what your fingers have created.

I think about the moon and stars  
that you have set in place.

What are human beings that you think about them?

What is a son of man that you take care of him?

You have made them a little lower than the angels.

You placed on them a crown of glory and honor.

You made human beings rule over everything your hands  
created.

You put everything under their control.

They rule over all flocks and herds  
and over the wild animals.

They rule over the birds in the sky  
and over the fish in the ocean.

They rule over everything that swims in the oceans.

LORD, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in the whole earth!

## Psalm 11

*For the director of music. A psalm of David.*

I run to the LORD for safety.

So how can you say to me,

“Fly away like a bird to your mountain.

Look! Evil people are bending their bows.

They are placing their arrows against the strings.

They are planning to shoot from the shadows  
at those who have honest hearts.

When law and order are being destroyed,  
what can godly people do?"

The LORD is in his holy temple.

The LORD is on his throne in heaven.

He watches everyone on earth.

His eyes study them.

The LORD watches over those who do what is right.

But he really hates sinful people and those who love to hurt  
others.

He will pour out flaming coals and burning sulfur  
on those who do what is wrong.

A hot and dry wind will destroy them.

The LORD always does what is right.

So he loves it when people do what is fair.

Those who are honest will enjoy his blessing.

### **Psalm 17**

*A prayer of David.*

LORD, hear me, because I ask for what is right.

Listen to my cry for help.

Hear my prayer.

It doesn't come from lips that tell lies.

When you hand down your sentence, may it be in my favor.

May your eyes see what is right.

Look deep down into my heart.

Study me carefully at night and test me.

You won't find anything wrong.

I have planned nothing evil.

My mouth has not said sinful things.

Though evil people tried to pay me to do wrong,

I have not done what they wanted.

Instead I have done what you commanded.  
My steps have stayed on your paths.  
My feet have not slipped.

My God, I call out to you because you will answer me.  
Listen to me. Hear my prayer.

Show me the wonders of your great love.

By using your great power,  
you save those who go to you for safety from their enemies.  
Take good care of me, just as you would take care of your  
own eyes.

Hide me in the shadow of your wings.

Save me from the sinful people who want to destroy me.

Save me from my deadly enemies who are all around me.

They make their hearts hard and stubborn.

Their mouths speak with pride.

They have tracked me down. They are all around me.

Their eyes watch for a chance to throw me to the ground.

They are like a hungry lion, waiting to attack.

They are like a powerful lion, hiding in the bushes.

LORD, rise up. Oppose them and bring them down.

With your sword, save me from those evil people.

LORD, by your power save me from people like that.

They belong to this world. They get their reward in this life.

May what you have stored up for evil people fill their bellies.

May their children's stomachs be filled with it.

And may there even be leftovers for their little ones.

You will show that I am right; I will enjoy your blessing.

When I wake up, I will be satisfied because I will see you.

# remember what you read

1. What is something you noticed for the first time?

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2. What questions did you have?

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3. Was there anything that bothered you?

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4. What did you learn about loving God?

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5. What did you learn about loving others?

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# A Word About The New International Reader's Version

## *Have You Ever Heard of the New International Version?*

We call it the NIV. Many people read the NIV. In fact, more people read the NIV than any other English Bible. They like it because it's easy to read and understand.

And now we are happy to give you another Bible that's easy to read and understand. It's the New International Reader's Version. We call it the Nlrv.

## *Who Will Enjoy Reading the New International Reader's Version?*

People who are just starting to read will understand and enjoy the Nlrv. Children will be able to read it and understand it. So will older people who are learning how to read. People who are reading the Bible for the first time will be able to enjoy reading the Nlrv. So will people who have a hard time understanding what they read. And so will people who use English as their second language. We hope this Bible will be just right for you.

## *How Is the Nlrv Different From the NIV?*

The Nlrv is based on the NIV. The NIV Committee on Bible Translation (CBT) didn't produce the Nlrv. But a few of us who worked on the Nlrv are members of CBT. We worked hard to make the Nlrv possible. We used the words of the NIV when we could. When the words of the NIV were too long, we used shorter words. We tried to use words that are easy to understand. We also made the sentences of the NIV much shorter.

Why did we do all these things? Because we wanted to make the Nlrv very easy to read and understand.

## *What Other Helps Does the Nlrv Have?*

We decided to give you a lot of other help too. For example, sometimes a verse is quoted from another place in the Bible. When it is, we tell you the Bible book, chapter and verse it comes from. We put that information right after the verse that quotes from another place.

We separated each chapter into shorter sections. We gave a title to almost every chapter. Sometimes we even gave a title to a section. We

did these things to help you understand what the chapter or section is all about.

Another example of a helpful change has to do with the word “Selah” in the Psalms. What this Hebrew word means is still not clear. So, for now, this word is not helpful for readers. The NIV has moved the word to the bottom of the page. We have followed the NIV and removed this Hebrew word from the NIrV. Perhaps one day we will learn what this word means. But until then, the Psalms are easier to read and understand without it.

Sometimes the writers of the Bible used more than one name for the same person or place. For example, in the New Testament the Sea of Galilee is also called the Sea of Gennesaret. Sometimes it is also called the Sea of Tiberias. But in the NIrV we decided to call it the Sea of Galilee everywhere it appears. We called it that because that is its most familiar name.

We also wanted to help you learn the names of people and places in the Bible. So sometimes we provided names even in verses where those names don’t actually appear. For example, sometimes the Bible says “the River” where it means “the Euphrates River.” In those places, we used the full name “the Euphrates River.” Sometimes the word “Pharaoh” in the Bible means “Pharaoh Hophra.” In those places, we used his full name “Pharaoh Hophra.” We did all these things in order to make the NIrV as clear as possible.

### *Does the NIrV Say What the First Writers of the Bible Said?*

We wanted the NIrV to say just what the first writers of the Bible said. So we kept checking the Greek New Testament as we did our work. That’s because the New Testament’s first writers used Greek. We also kept checking the Hebrew Old Testament as we did our work. That’s because the Old Testament’s first writers used Hebrew.

We used the best copies of the Greek New Testament. We also used the best copies of the Hebrew Old Testament. Older English Bibles couldn’t use those copies because they had not yet been found. The oldest copies are best because they are closer in time to the ones the first Bible writers wrote. That’s why we kept checking the older copies instead of the newer ones.

Some newer copies of the Greek New Testament added several verses that the older ones don’t have. Sometimes it’s several verses in a row. This occurs at Mark 16:9–20 and John 7:53—8:11. We have included these verses in the NIrV. Sometimes the newer copies added only a

single verse. An example is Mark 9:44. That verse is not in the oldest Greek New Testaments. So we put the verse number 43/44 right before Mark 9:43. You can look on the list below for Mark 9:44 and locate the verse that was added.

*Verses That Were Not Found in Oldest Greek New Testaments*

- Matthew 17:21 But that kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.
- Matthew 18:11 The Son of Man came to save what was lost.
- Matthew 23:14 How terrible for you, teachers of the law and Pharisees! You pretenders! You take over the houses of widows. You say long prayers to show off. So God will punish you much more.
- Mark 7:16 Everyone who has ears to hear should listen.
- Mark 9:44 In hell, / “ ‘the worms don’t die, / and the fire doesn’t go out.’
- Mark 9:46 In hell, / “ ‘the worms don’t die, / and the fire doesn’t go out.’
- Mark 11:26 But if you do not forgive, your Father who is in heaven will not forgive your sins either.
- Mark 15:28 Scripture came true. It says, “And he was counted among those who disobey the law.”
- Luke 17:36 Two men will be in the field. One will be taken and the other left.
- Luke 23:17 It was Pilate’s duty to let one prisoner go free for them at the Feast.
- John 5:4 From time to time an angel of the Lord would come down. The angel would stir up the waters. The first disabled person to go into the pool after it was stirred would be healed.
- Acts 8:37 Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you can.” The official answered, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”
- Acts 15:34 But Silas decided to remain there.
- Acts 24:7 But Lysias, the commander, came. By using a lot of force, he took Paul from our hands.
- Acts 28:29 After he said that, the Jews left. They were arguing strongly among themselves.
- Romans 16:24 May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with all of you. Amen.

### *What Is Our Prayer for You?*

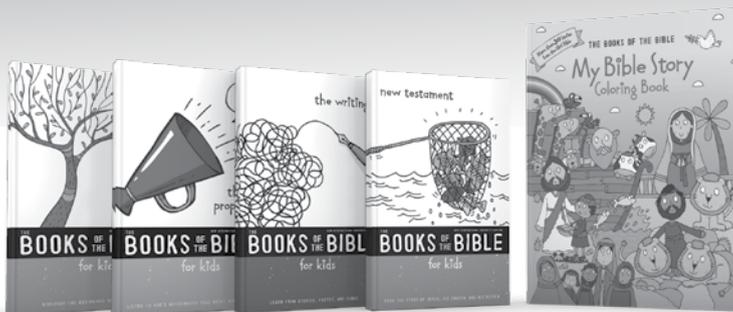
The Lord has blessed the New International Version in a wonderful way. He has used it to help millions of Bible readers. Many people have put their faith in Jesus after reading it. Many others have become stronger believers because they have read it.

We hope and pray that the New International Reader's Version will help you in the same way. If that happens, we will give God all the glory.

### *A Word About This Edition*

This edition of the New International Reader's Version has been revised to include the changes of the New International Version. Over the years, many helpful changes have been made to the New International Version. Those changes were made because our understanding of the original writings is better. Those changes also include changes that have taken place in the English language. We wanted the New International Reader's Version to include those helpful changes as well. We wanted the New International Reader's Version to be as clear and correct as possible.

We want to thank the people who helped us prepare this new edition. They are Jeannine Brown from Bethel Seminary St. Paul, Yvonne Van Ee from Calvin College, Michael Williams from Calvin Theological Seminary, and Ron Youngblood from Bethel Seminary San Diego. We also want to thank the people at Biblica who encouraged and supported this work.



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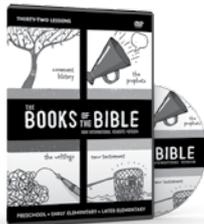
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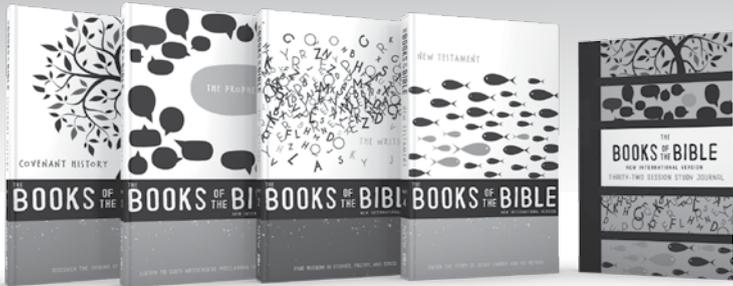
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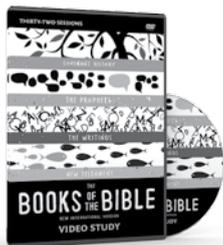
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