

@GodsTweet
#Follow God

KOBUS GENIS

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DEDICATION

My family and friends

@Charles Kuralt

The love of family and the admiration of friends is much more important than wealth and privilege.

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PREFACE

I think it is fair to say that two thirds of the world is covered with water while the rest is covered with Facebook, and Twitter. Facebook friends request, “Add me” where the request of Twitter is “Follow me.” @GodsTweet is an invitation to you to follow God. Through these Tweets, God seeks to show you how much God loves you and how much He longs to have a relationship with you.

The idea is to read a page a day. The book is structured in a way to help you use the Bible as your daily guide.

First, the way in which @GodsTweet is compiled will help you to get a better picture of the Bible as a whole. The Tweets are divided according to the main time blocks of the Bible. Each block will be explained and the Tweets followed will be according to that specific time frame. The daily readings start at the beginning of Genesis and will accompany you through each book of the Bible right up to Revelation. Note that the journal does not follow the sequence of books in the Old Testament. The books of the Old Testament are not divided according to a timeline but rather in main blocks such as the Law, Writings and Prophets. However, I have organized the books in such a way that they will follow a timeline.

Second, every devotion starts with a GodsTweet that serves as an introduction to the passage. The passage is followed with a Thought for the Day.

Finally, every day is accompanied by a closing prayer and a relevant quote (tweet).

I hope you will rediscover the almighty God as your companion while reading this journal. He wants to join you on your journey through life. In this way, your own journey will become a story about God.

BEGINNING (PRE-HISTORY) - TWEETS

First Major Part of the Bible (Genesis 1–11)

The events in Genesis 1–11 bear no date and are therefore known as pre- history. The following important events occur during this time:

Creation

Creation is God’s proclamation that He wants to accompany people on their life journey.

Adam and Eve

People are the highlight of the creation.

Cain and Abel

People disappoint God. Cain murders his brother Abel.

Noah and the Flood

God regrets creating people (Gen. 6:6) and decides to use water to destroy them. But God shows mercy by saving Noah and his family. After the flood, God makes a promise to never again repeat this event. The rainbow is proof of His promise. Yes, God is with us all the time.

The Tower of Babel

People once again disobey God. They decide to make a name for themselves by building the Tower of Babel.

The first 11 chapters of Genesis describe how people miss the mark. The rest of the Bible tells us how God accompanies people on their journey through life in order to create a community of believers—a family of faith!

@Godstweet

Beginning with something so exciting and amazing! Hard to express it in words!

Bible Passage

Genesis 1: God's creation

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. (NIV)

Thought for the Day

The word beginning is a wonderful word because it contains elements of expectation, optimism and excitement. Think of the first day of holiday, the kick-off of a football game—or your first date. It is striking to note that the very first sentence in the Bible contains this word. It is here where our journey begins. Isn't that cool?

The first sentence in the Bible is an announcement that proclaims God is the creator of all. Everything begins with God! The Spirit of God that was hovering over the waters in verse 2 symbolizes God's mysterious presence and power. It is this mysterious power that could equip a stutterer like Moses to lead his people, turn a defenseless widow like Naomi into a joyous grandmother, stop Saul in his tracks, or enable Jesus to rise from the dead. On this Tweet-journey, you will discover how God's Spirit is still functioning. You should only learn to see this. In short, this journey begins with God. You could not have wished for a better start!

Prayer

Loving Father and Creator of all, I come to you today deeply grateful for your creation. I am amazed at the greatness and majesty of all that You have made. Thank You for letting me know You. I look forward to discovering how Your Spirit works in my life.

@Maria Robinson

Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending.

@Godstweet

Enjoying My masterpiece and taking a break on the seventh day

Bible Passage

The story of creation has given rise to much debate, but the question stands: Does Genesis 1 have a message for us? Let's take a look.

Day	God's actions	Day	God's actions
1	light and time	4	sun, moon and stars
2	sky sea	5	birds (sky) fish (sea)
3	land & plants	6	animals & man

Thought for the Day

During the first three days God prepares the earth to be inhabited by taming the forces of darkness and barrenness. During the last three days, God completes the cosmos in the same sequence as the first three days: the heavenly bodies (sun, moon and stars) to drive away the darkness; the birds to fill the air and the fish to fill the seas; animals and human beings to live from the land and plants.

This wonderful parallel tells us that God created in an orderly fashion and put everything in place for relationships to flourish. God wants you to experience healthy relationships with Him, with other people and with creation.

Prayer

Indescribable, uncontainable
You placed the stars in the sky
And You know them by name
You are amazing, God
(From the song Indescribable by Laura Story and Jesse Reeves)

@Author unknown

Sure God created man before woman, but then again you always make a rough draft before creating the final masterpiece.

@Godstweet

Going for a walk and realizing that Adam and Eve are hiding. Calling to them: Where are you?

Bible Passage

Genesis 3: 1-22 The Fall of Humankind

6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

⁹But the LORD God called to the man, Where are you? (NIV)

Thought for the Day

We all want to experience freedom. The reality is that your freedom stops where someone else's freedom starts. That is why houses have doorbells. People need to ask permission to enter your free space. Freedom entails boundaries that need to be respected.

Adam and Eve were not allowed to eat from the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden. The tree is a symbol of God's presence and therefore indicates that the garden belongs to Him. The tree therefore sets a boundary between God and human beings. We need to respect those boundaries. By choosing to respect the boundaries we are expressing our love and respect to God. Unfortunately Adam and Eve did not respect those boundaries by eating from the forbidden fruit. They realize that and hide from God. Fortunately God does not turn His back on them but calls to them.

No matter what you have done, God will still be looking for you to show you how much He loves you.

Prayer

Lord, forgive me where I didn't show respect and thank you that you never turn your back on me.

@Lieutenant Daniel Taylor

Have you found Jesus yet, Gump?

Forest Gump: I didn't know I was supposed to be looking for him, sir. #From the movie: Forest Gump Robert Zemeckis, 1994

@Godstweet

Heartbroken because of humankind's wickedness! Sorry I ever made people

Bible Passage

Genesis 6: 5-8 God is grieved

7 So the LORD said, 'I will wipe mankind, whom I have created from the face of the earth – men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds in the air – for I am grieved that I have made them.'⁸ But Noah found favor in the Eyes of the Lord. (NIV)

Thought for the Day

Shortly after God created everything good, the Bible tells us of humankind's failure - Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit and Cain killed his brother, Abel. Humankind's sins cause God tremendous pain because God loves them. The word grieved in this passage literally means that His heart was filled with pain. The same Hebrew word for grief is used in Genesis 3:16 to describe the pain women have to endure during childbirth and in Genesis 3:17 to describe men's toil to earn a living. By deliberately using the same word, the Bible says something remarkable: Our pain has spilled over to God. God is therefore not detached from what happens to us.

Because God is disappointed, God plans to wipe out humankind and even the animals from the face of the earth. But then something impressive happens, as the word but in verse 8 indicates:

God changes his mind. God's love for humans is always stronger than His wrath. Isn't that comforting to know – especially when we mess up?

Prayer

Thank you that the will of God will never take me to where the grace of God will not protect me.

@Tullian Tchividjian

Legalism says God will love us if we change. The gospel says God will change us because He loves us.

@Godstweet

Realizing that human beings are busy building a tower and deciding to go down to check it out

Bible Passage

Genesis 11: 4-8 The Tower of Babel

4 ‘Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves ...’ (NIV)

Thought for the Day

Live your dream! If you can dream it, you can achieve it! Reach for the stars! Ambitious people are inspired by utterances such as these. Ambition is a good thing, but it can be dangerous. The well-known story of the Tower of Babel illustrates the danger of ambition.

In the past, people believed that the gods lived on the mountaintops. Because Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq) did not have high mountains, people built ziggurats to perform this function. Ziggurats were massive pyramidal temples. It served as meeting places between heaven and earth—between the gods and human beings. The base of a ziggurat could be about 90 square meters (300 square feet) and have a height of about 90 meters (300 feet). The room at the top was used for religious practices. The story of the Tower of Babel was most probably told with reference to the ziggurats.

The people were very ambitious. There is nothing wrong with ambition. Unfortunately they use their ambition to compete with God and to exclude God. Ambition should always take God into account, for this will prevent us from becoming arrogant and trampling on others. Arrogant people always think they are better than other people. Humble people are easily liked, very approachable and easy to get along with. Be humble and thank God for your accomplishments!

Prayer

Lord, I would like to always take You into account in my ambitions!

@American proverb

Arrogance is a kingdom without a crown.

THE PATRIARCHS AND SLAVERY – TWEETS

(±2000 – ± 1250 BC)

Second Major Part of the Bible

(Genesis 12–50)

In the second major part of the Bible, God singles out one man and his family and turn them into a nation that will have a very special relationship with Him. God wants to reveal Himself to them and they, in turn (as the bearers of His image), have to reveal Him to others. God promises Abraham land and offspring. He forms the new community of believers in such a way that it does not happen naturally but through God's direct intervention.

God does this in two ways. First, He chooses an old sterile woman (Abraham's wife, Sarah) as the mother of the community of believers.

Second, He calls someone from the heathens to be the father of the new community. By doing this, God wants us to realize that the community of believers is not the result of human thought and effort. It is the work of a God who wants to be reunited with us.

Abraham was the first father of the community. He and his descendants (such as Isaac and Jacob) are known as the patriarchs. Patriarchs is a Hebrew term that means first father or ruling father. Joseph is another main figure. He was the favorite son of his father, Jacob. Genesis ends when Joseph and his family settle in Egypt, where they live for 430 years. During this time, they multiply in numbers and become slaves.

In these chapters in Genesis, we see the wondrous ways God goes about establishing a new community of faith.

The Patriarchs and Slavery - Tweets

@Godstweet

Planning to put Abraham's faith to the ultimate test by asking him to sacrifice his only son, Isaac

Bible Passage

Genesis 22: 1-19 Abraham Tested

13 Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. (NIV)

Thought for the Day

We often encounter times when it seems as if life has reached a dead end and there is no way forward. This episode might help us see the light!

The episode in which Abraham was to sacrifice Isaac must have made Abraham doubt God's logic. How could God ask him to do such a thing? Had not God promised him land and numerous descendants? And now he was to sacrifice his only son. Yet despite his inability to understand, Abraham obeys God. In the end, Abraham sacrifices a ram, not Isaac. Was it a coincidence that the ram was there? No, Abraham sees this as a sign that God provides. He calls the place the Lord will provide. What seemed like a dead end to Abraham was actually a new beginning.

Right now, things may be happening in your life that just do not make sense. May this be an opportunity for you to experience that the Lord will provide a way out.

Prayer

Lord, help me to trust You even though it feels there is no way out.

@Winston Churchill

The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.

@Godstweet

Realizing that the seventeen-year-old Joseph's arrogance will bring him into disrepute with his brothers

Bible Passage

Genesis 37: 5-11 Joseph's Dreams

5 Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. (NIV)

Thought for the Day

I am pretty sure that you've come across a person who thinks that he/she is always right and who believes that he/she is truly better than other people. This is what we call an arrogant person. Arrogant people are not popular. Joseph was very arrogant when he was a teenager. He had a dream and revealed it to his brothers. The meaning of the dream is very clear: Joseph will become a ruler and his father and brothers will be subservient to him. Joseph's arrogance makes his brothers blood boil.

That is aggravated by the fact that he is their father's favourite child. That is why, in the next episode, they throw him into an empty cistern and sell him later as a slave. Joseph learns the hard way that arrogance brings you into disrepute. You don't have to learn it the hard way! Just be humble!

Prayer

Lord God, help me to be still and know that You are God. Help me to remember my sins to confess them to You and ask Your forgiveness. I pray in the name of Jesus for help in overcoming

I realize that arrogance brings us into disrepute. Help me to be humble and to live to the glorify You! Amen

@Laura Teresa Marquez

Arrogance and rudeness are training wheels on the bicycle of life - for weak people who cannot keep their balance without them.

The Patriarchs and Slavery - Tweets

@Godstweet

Seeing that Potiphar's wife wants to cheat on her husband by taking handsome Joseph to bed

Bible Passage

Genesis 39: 1-23 Potiphar's wife tries to seduce Joseph

6 So he left in Joseph's care everything he had; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, ⁷ and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, 'Come to bed with me!' (NIV)

Thought for the Day

Everyone faces temptations. A temptation is the desire to have or do something that you know you should avoid. Joseph can help us to deal with temptation. Joseph was Potiphar's (he was the captain of Pharaoh's guard) personal attendant.

Potiphar's wife starts flirting with Joseph. She makes attempts to seduce him into sleeping with her. After all, Joseph is muscular and well built. Joseph resists the temptation by running away from it. Temptations normally start with a harmless thought. Then you start to entertain that thought. Then you commit the act. Joseph didn't entertain the temptation.

I know it is not always easy. Maybe you are in the grip of something you know is harmful. Talk to someone you can trust! No one is perfect! We all make mistakes!

Prayer

Dear Lord, You know the temptations that I am facing today. I ask for your strength to stand up under the temptation whenever I encounter it. Please, Lord, give me the wisdom to walk away when I am tempted, and the clarity to see the way out that you will provide. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen

@Henry Louis Mencken

Temptation is a woman's weapon and man's excuse.

@Godstweet

Heart going out to Joseph who is treated unfairly and thrown into prison

Bible Passage

Genesis 40: 6-23 Joseph interprets the cupbearer's dream

12 'This is what it means,' Joseph said to him. 'The three branches are three days. ¹³ Within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your position and you will put Pharaoh's cup in his hand, just as you used to do when you were his cupbearer. (NIV)

Thought for the Day

I will never forget my first psychology class at university for what the professor said. He said that life is unfair. Isn't that true? Joseph experienced that when he was thrown into prison for supposedly raping Potiphar's wife. Potiphar's wife lied because she was mad that Joseph didn't want to sleep with her. Although he did nothing to deserve it, he was made a slave and prisoner for 13 years. Fortunately, the story does not end there.

In prison he meets Pharaoh's cupbearer and chief baker. They were thrown in prison for offending Pharaoh. They both had dreams and Joseph was able to interpret the dreams for them. Two years later Joseph was released from prison because he was able to interpret Pharaoh's dream. We learn from Joseph that we mustn't become bitter when life is unfair but to continue to trust God. I know it is not always easy but Romans 8 verse 28 is always a comfort: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (NIV).

Prayer

Lord, thank You that I can know that despite my circumstances, You are constantly working in my life.

@Jean de la Bruyere

Out of difficulties grow miracles.

The Patriarchs and Slavery - Tweets

@Godstweet

Revealing the meaning of Pharaoh's dreams to Joseph

Bible Passage

Genesis 41: 8-41 Pharaoh's Dreams

8 In the morning his mind was troubled, so he sent for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no one could interpret them for him.

¹⁶ I cannot do it, Joseph replied to Pharaoh, but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires. (NIV)

Thought for the Day

We sometimes feel the absence of God in our lives. The episode where Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dream will help us to deal with this feeling.

Pharaoh's magicians couldn't tell Pharaoh the meaning of his dream. Joseph is brought from prison to the mighty Pharaoh's palace to interpret Pharaoh's dream. The Pharaoh is so impressed with Joseph's interpretation that he makes him second in command in the whole land of Egypt. Joseph progresses from a prison to a palace—without pertinent mention of God (except in Genesis 45:5–8 and 50:19–20). Wow!!

Was God absent? Certainly not! God often achieves His goal by using ordinary people and ordinary events. Trust God even when you don't feel God's presence.

Prayer

Thank You, Lord, for letting me know that You are constantly working in my life.

@Blaise Pascal

Small minds are concerned with the extraordinary, great minds with the ordinary.