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

THE WORLD HELD THEIR
BREATH IN THEIR SEARCH
FOR A SAVIOR.

BUT ONLY THOSE
WHO BELIEVED
RECOGNIZED HIM.

|
DR. J. VERNON MCGEE



THRU the BIBLE

The bottom of the page features dark silhouettes of evergreen trees against the starry night sky background.



WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD

WHY JESUS CAME UNRECOGNIZED

Dr. J. Vernon McGee



This article is an excerpt from **"Right on Time: Expecting Jesus, Then and Now."**

Download the full digital booklet at TTB.org/booklets.

God blazed a trail down through history in such a definite way through Old Testament prophecies that when Jesus Christ came, the people should have known by the prophetic Scriptures who He was.

God made the details very clear that this one who was coming would:

- **Be born of a woman;** that is, God would take upon Himself human flesh and be born into the human family.
- **Follow a certain genealogical line leading to the Messiah**—from Abraham down through the centuries to David. God promised David that from his line would come the Messiah, the Deliverer, the one who would restore to this earth that which Adam lost.
- **The Deliverer would also be born of a virgin.**



God actually established, not the date, but the time and the place in which the Messiah would be born. May I say, you can't add much more than that. There were enough points of identification that the people should have recognized Him when He arrived.

Why didn't the Jews recognize Him? Perhaps they just didn't believe He would come. They knew the Scriptures well, but they didn't believe them. According to Matthew's record, the scribes of Israel knew the place where Jesus was to be born, but you could never have convinced them that in that miserable stable, probably only a cave, lay a little newborn boy who was to be the Savior of the world! And after a time, when the wise men came, the scribes were not even interested in going with them to see what had really happened down there in Bethlehem. They did not believe. That's why they didn't travel five miles down the road to check it out. If they thought their Messiah was there, they would have gone immediately. But they absolutely didn't believe it.


In our day, the world is following the same road. Those people who had the Scriptures were in the same position the professing Christian is in today; that is, a state of unbelief. Did you know the majority of churches reject the Second Coming of Christ? They have absolutely turned aside from the clear teaching of Scripture, so if He did make His appearance and were to come in a manner like He came before, do you think the world would accept Him? Of course it wouldn't. They're not looking for Him to come again at all. Peter wrote:

... Scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." -2 Peter 3:3, 4

The world just doesn't believe in Christ's return. By and large, the church is also in a state of unbelief relative to the Second Coming of Christ. They, too, don't believe.

At His first coming, the religious scholars should have known He would be born in that general period of time—not a thousand years later, nor a hundred years earlier. They knew Messiah's birth would fit into God's program in that particular time slot. When the wise men appeared out of the East, they certainly alerted old Herod, and it should also have alerted these scribes. They should have said, "Yes, our Scriptures not only tell where He is to be born, but they also give us some conception of when He is to be born!" They should have been interested enough to at least go check it out and see about this baby who was born in Bethlehem. But as far as the record is concerned, those knowledgeable, complacent religious rulers did not take one step toward Bethlehem. They did not believe it at all!

But the common people of Israel and others around the world did have a note of expectancy. They sensed a deliverer or ruler was going to come from Judaea. Consider how the magi came, at the right hour, inquiring at Jerusalem after the new-born King of the Jews. First century Roman historian, Suetonius, wrote that "an ancient and definite expectation" had spread throughout the East,



BEHOLD,

I send My messenger,

AND HE WILL PREPARE THE WAY BEFORE ME.

MALACHI 3:1

that a ruler of the world would, about that time, arise in Judaea. Tacitus, another Roman historian, said the same. Also in the first century, word was that Buddhist missionaries traveled to China to meet with Chinese sages seeking the Messiah.

The world held their breath in their search for a Savior. But only those who believed recognized Him. These secular searchers couldn't always pin down what they were looking for—they didn't have the Scriptures—but there was an expectancy that a Deliverer was coming to the earth.

In Malachi, the last book of the Old Testament, it was written:

“Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,” says the Lord of hosts. –Malachi 3:1

And the next voice on the scene four hundred years later was John the Baptist, announcing that he was the forerunner to the Savior of the world, the one who is to be the Ruler of this earth (see John 1).

MY TURN

- ① **What did you learn in this “history lesson” from Dr. McGee?**
- ② **“Believing God’s Word” seems to be the timeless theme of the greatest events in history.** As you hear the Christmas story told and retold this season, filter it through this grid. What were each of the people “believing about God?”
- ③ **Consider the promises of God that you have read in the Bible.** Some are easier to believe than others, aren't they? In a quiet moment, tell God what you believe about Him and ask Him to help you believe other truths that you find difficult. (*He wants to help you believe Him.*)

YEAR IN REVIEW— “FLINGING THE SEED”



Gregg Harris
THRU the BIBLE President

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.

My mind is drawn to the powerful truths in 1 Corinthians 3:6-9 as we look back on 2022.

I love to quote Dr. McGee on the “business” of THRU the BIBLE. “We are in the seed-sowing business,” he loved to say in his homespun way. “Our job is to fling the seed.” What tremendous freedom we have in this simple, biblical mandate.

Now read 1 Corinthians 3:6-9 again. Together, we can be confident that:

- ① **Our job is to play our part.**
- ② **God's job is to give the increase.** (He alone can do this.)
- ③ **We will receive our own reward for our obedience to our calling.**

For almost 50 years, we've been flinging seed around the world using radio. We continue to invest heavily in that medium, but as God opens doors, **we have added new delivery systems that allow us to "fling the seed" in exciting new ways.**

Two Hundred Languages | This year, we celebrated the wonderful milestone of seeing Dr. McGee's systematic teaching available in more than 200 languages around the world. We are excited to see the impact in smaller language groups, many of whom have almost no solid Bible teaching resources.

Satellite TV | This year also marks the 10th anniversary of THRU the BIBLE's satellite TV ministry. The Arabic TV program continues to reach huge numbers of people on multiple satellite releases and social media. Their  **YouTube** channel alone has seen over seven million views. Over the past decade, we've added seven more languages to our TV ministry: Persian, Turkish, Urdu, Indonesian, French, Armenian, and Italian. THRU the BIBLE's satellite TV broadcasts now cover the entire Muslim world at a time when more Muslims are turning to Christ than any time in human history. God really knows what He is doing!



THRU the BIBLE Home Groups | Ten years ago, I was in India meeting with the CEO of TWR-India. He expressed gratitude for THRU the BIBLE's commitment to reach India and shared a vision to take Dr. McGee's teaching into dozens of smaller language groups. That simple vision is now a reality as we have more than 20,000 THRU the BIBLE Home Groups meeting in countries like India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. This model has been so powerful that other regions of the world are proposing to duplicate it. Dr. McGee said, "As the church started in the home, it is going to come back to the home."

Digital Initiatives | We all know technology has changed the way people live, work, and play. While it is an incredibly complex and fast-changing realm, we believe THRU the BIBLE must be active in getting the Word of God out through these avenues.

God has brought together a team of tremendously gifted partners who have built exciting platforms for us to distribute both the Bible and our Bible teaching to anyone on earth who wants it. By the end of 2022, we will have not only our main THRU the BIBLE app with the Bible and Dr. McGee’s teaching in over 100 languages, but we also will have 20 THRU the BIBLE contextualized Bible apps. By God’s grace, we already see millions of engagements across all the digital platforms available as of this writing.



THRU the BIBLE App



THRU the BIBLE Contextualized Apps

Primary Audience

Anyone who wants to engage with THRU the BIBLE programs and resources.

Anyone who wants to study the Bible in a single language.

Core App Features

Access THRU the BIBLE study programs in 100+ languages paired with a Bible. Along with additional resources, listeners can stream or engage offline, as well as save progress with a personal account.

Access to a single Bible and associated THRU the BIBLE content, for use in areas where connectivity or data storage are a barrier to using our primary app. Available in 20 languages, with more being added each month.

Download Options

Download it from the THRU the BIBLE Apple and Google Play stores, or visit TTB.org/listen.

View all apps in our THRU the BIBLE Apple and Google Play stores, or visit TTB.bible.

As we head into 2023, let’s keep flinging the seed out there, while trusting God to give the increase. We can be sure of His promise to reward us for our faithfulness to the task. I’m thinking of you, each of you individually, who are playing your part and whom God will reward for your obedience to your calling.

On behalf of the entire team at THRU the BIBLE and our partners around the world, thank you for your faithful support as we take the whole Word to the whole world!

At **THRU the BIBLE**, our mission embraces the intersections of opportunities—both divine and seemingly ordinary.

Faithful choices and generous service lay the foundation for us to continue to take the whole Word to the whole world.



FINDING JOY IN JESUS

“You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” –Psalm 16:11

“Before coming to the Lord, I was in pain and sorrow.” That’s what we recently heard from a listener of THRU the BIBLE’S Marathi program in India. Here’s the rest of his story:

“I was literally fed up with my life. I tried hard to come to a place of peace and happiness, but I never could. One day, I heard a prayer on the radio. It was your program, and I was curious. I began to listen every day and came to know that the root cause for my problems was my sin, and I must repent of it.

“After I turned to the Lord, my life changed forever. Today, I am a Christian. Our Lord has given me joy in my life. With the help of your teachings I get from the radio and our pastor, I am reaching out to people who do not know Jesus and His grace. I give all glory to God alone for the new purpose and joy I have found in Jesus.”

It’s true, God’s Word tells us He is the source of all our joy. Today thank Him for this listener and all those who hear His Word and respond to God’s offer of hope and peace through a relationship with Jesus. And, as we spend more time in His Word together, pray the joy of being in His presence overflows in our lives each day, too.

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

**GO TO [TTB.ORG/PRAY](https://www.ttb.org/pray)
TO SIGN UP.**

Peace

ON EARTH AND
PEACE IN OUR HEARTS
COMES ONLY FROM
KNOWING AND LOVING THE
LORD JESUS CHRIST.

DR. J. VERNON MCGEE

OH, COME LET US ADORE HIM.

Merry Christmas

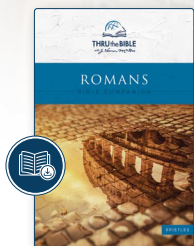
TO THE **THRU**the**BIBLE** LISTENING FAMILY.

J E S U S I N

Romans

WITH DR. J. VERNON MCGEE

Romans 8 is the high-water mark in Romans, and many believe it to be the greatest chapter in the Bible. **No other chapter more deeply and fully describes the hope and tender mercies we have in Jesus Christ. Nor does any other chapter describe the work of the Trinity on our behalf—the Holy Spirit working with our spirit, Jesus’ intercession for us, and the unending love of God the Father for His children.** All these truths link together to form a great security for every Christian and the opportunity to experience the life in God He intends for us. A life that pleases God must be lived in His power and not ours. **The Holy Spirit’s job is to deliver us from frustration and failure.**



Adapted from the **Romans Bible Companion**. Download your free copy at TTB.org/booklets.

When Paul described the defeat he experienced when he struggled to live a life that pleases God (ch. 7), he didn’t lose his salvation. Why? Because “there is ... no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus” (8:1). But Paul still wasn’t enjoying the Christian life as God intended. How could he get it?

Remember we learned how we were once under the authority of our old nature? It controlled us, even as a Christian. It cut off our fellowship with God.

Only a higher authority and power can put us back in fellowship with God—only the Holy Spirit, who is the source of our new life in God can connect us to the living Christ Jesus.


He is the one who sets us free from the law of sin and from death’s power.

We can live the Christian life when the Holy Spirit empowers us. We don’t have to lift ourselves up by our own bootstraps. We’ll never make it that way, anyway. Think of all the resolutions we make, like “I’m going to do better,” but do we ever do better? Didn’t we do the same old things this year?

Giving His Spirit to us is God’s way of getting to the root of our sin. First Jesus was identified with us on the cross, putting death itself to death. **Today, the Holy Spirit enables you to live the Christian life right where you live in this sinful world. He gives you the strength to win the victory. The Holy Spirit produces a life of joyful obedience, which the Law commanded but could never produce in you.** The Holy Spirit furnishes the power, but the decision to let Him rule is still yours.

ON THE ROAD

Greetings FROM THE BIBLE BUS

“My heart is so excited by today’s  WorldPrayerToday email about Alexander in Belarus. This has happened more than once, and I am compelled to write to you and to the listeners on how important it is for me to be a part of the World Prayer Team.

“I have been listening to Dr. McGee for over a year and a half and heard about the World Prayer Team but didn’t join because I didn’t think I would be committed enough. But when I finally joined in early January, I also found there is grace when you forget that day. The email doesn’t go away, nor does the need for prayer. **I have found in these emails such a wealth of blessings. They encourage me as they will often have prayers written. These prayers and stories encourage and inspire me to also pray for my own needs. My heart is warmed by people asking for prayers to stay the course.**

“So, if anyone has felt the tug to join the World Prayer Team—I encourage you, take that step of faith and try it! You may just be blessed as well as be a blessing to many!”

– From Shirley

ARE YOU ON THE TEAM?

Join now at [TTB.org/pray](https://www.thruthebible.org/pray).



WANT YOUR YEAR-END GIFT TO THRU THE BIBLE TO COUNT TOWARDS YOUR 2022 TAXES?

Please keep these dates and times in mind as you make your plans:

- **Online at [TTB.org/give](https://www.thruthebible.org/give):** Gifts must be submitted before 10:00 PM, Pacific on December 31.
- **Calling 1-800-65-BIBLE:** We'll be happy to help you by phone before 2:00 PM, Pacific on December 31.
- **Mail:** Gifts must be postmarked and checks dated in 2022.



Interested in investing your gift in an annuity with THRU the BIBLE?

For more information, give us a call at 1-800-65-BIBLE and select option 5 when prompted.



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