

The ONE  
YEAR®

THE ONE YEAR® BOOK OF

Discovering  
**JESUS**  
IN THE Old Testament

NANCY  
GUTHRIE

ROSE  
PUBLISHING

This free eChart is taken from the book *The One Year® Book of Discovering Jesus in the Old Testament* (ISBN 9781414335902).  
Day by day throughout the year, readers will see the beauty of Christ in fresh new ways, creating a deeper understanding and appreciation for  
who Jesus is and what he accomplished through the Cross and Resurrection.

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## INTRODUCTION

I grew up going to Sunday school . . . and vacation Bible school and church camp and training union (which was our Sunday night version of Sunday school). Along the way, I learned my share of Old Testament Bible stories. From the story of Adam and Eve I learned that I should not listen to the devil's lies. From Noah I learned that I should be willing to stand alone against an evil world. From Abraham I learned that I should be willing to sacrifice what is most precious to me. From Jacob I learned that I should expect to experience the consequences of my deceit. From Joseph I learned that I should run from temptation. And it goes on from there.

Most of my life I have read and been taught the Old Testament as a series of life lessons or faith lessons. Its chief characters were held up as heroes to emulate or villains to disdain. I knew that the Old Testament spoke of Christ, but in my mind that was limited to the prophecies about the coming of the Messiah. I did not see that, in fact, all of the Old Testament is preparing us to understand who Christ is and what he came to do. I did not understand that the people in the Old Testament were not true heroes. In fact, the Bible takes care to expose their flagrant flaws. Their imperfections and limitations serve to point to the need for a true hero, a perfect son, a better provider, deliverer, savior, judge, prophet, priest, and king.

What I did not see is that the Old Testament tells a story that only finds its completion in Jesus Christ. I did not see that Jesus is the offspring of the woman who will crush the head of the serpent. Jesus is the ark that protects the faithful remnant from judgment. Jesus is the fulfillment of all the blessings promised to Abraham. He is the greater Isaac, the beloved Son of his Father, offered as a sacrifice, who was not spared from the knife. Jesus is the stairway Jacob saw in his dream on which God comes down to earth. Jesus is the greater Joseph, the One whose suffering put him in place to become Savior to all who come to him for food amid the famine of this world.

And those are just a few highlights from Genesis.

Jesus is the reality to which all of the sacrifices and offerings and festivals point. He is the fulfillment of the Tabernacle and Temple, making his home among us. He is the greater Moses who brings his people out of slavery to sin, the greater Israel who is not disobedient in the wilderness, the greater son of David whose Kingdom will last forever, the greater Solomon who is

the Prince of Peace. He is the weeping prophet, the greater Jonah who runs toward sinners rather than away from them, the Bridegroom, the Branch, Isaiah's child who is born.

Though this is not the way I learned to read and understand the Old Testament—and perhaps not the way you have read and understood it up to now—this is clearly the way Jesus read, understood, and taught it, and therefore the way his disciples began to teach it after his departure.

Jesus often said that he fulfilled specific Old Testament passages. At the beginning of his ministry, he went to the synagogue in Nazareth and stood up to read from the Old Testament scroll of Isaiah:

“The Spirit of the LORD is upon me,  
for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released,  
that the blind will see,  
that the oppressed will be set free,  
and that the time of the LORD's favor has come.”

He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. All eyes in the synagogue looked at him intently. Then he began to speak to them. “The Scripture you've just heard has been fulfilled this very day!” (Luke 4:18-21)

Those who heard Jesus say this were amazed, but ultimately infuriated, because they understood exactly what he was claiming.

Yet according to Jesus, it is not just individual prophecies or passages that point to him. It is the Old Testament Scriptures as a whole. Jesus said to the religious leaders, “You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me!” (John 5:39). Jesus was saying that the entirety of the Old Testament—its history, its promises, its people, its laws, its ceremonies, its songs—all of it is all about him.

Perhaps the clearest and most intriguing thing Jesus said about fulfilling the Scriptures came after his resurrection, as he walked along with two of his disciples on the road to Emmaus. They didn't recognize that it was Jesus who was walking with them, and they began telling him how heartbroken they were. They had hoped Jesus was the Messiah, and now, in light of his crucifixion, it seemed their hopes had been dashed.

Jesus said to them, “You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?” Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. (Luke 24:25-27)

When I read this, I am disappointed that the account stops there. This is a conversation I would have liked to have listened in on in full! How amazing it must have been to have Jesus himself walk through Genesis, Leviticus, Judges, Psalms, Proverbs, and Isaiah, saying, “This is about me. . . . This is about the work I came to do. . . . This is about the mercy I came to lavish on sinners. . . . This is about the sufficiency of my salvation. . . . This is about my deliverance from slavery to sin. . . . This is about the judgment that was poured out on me at the cross. . . .”

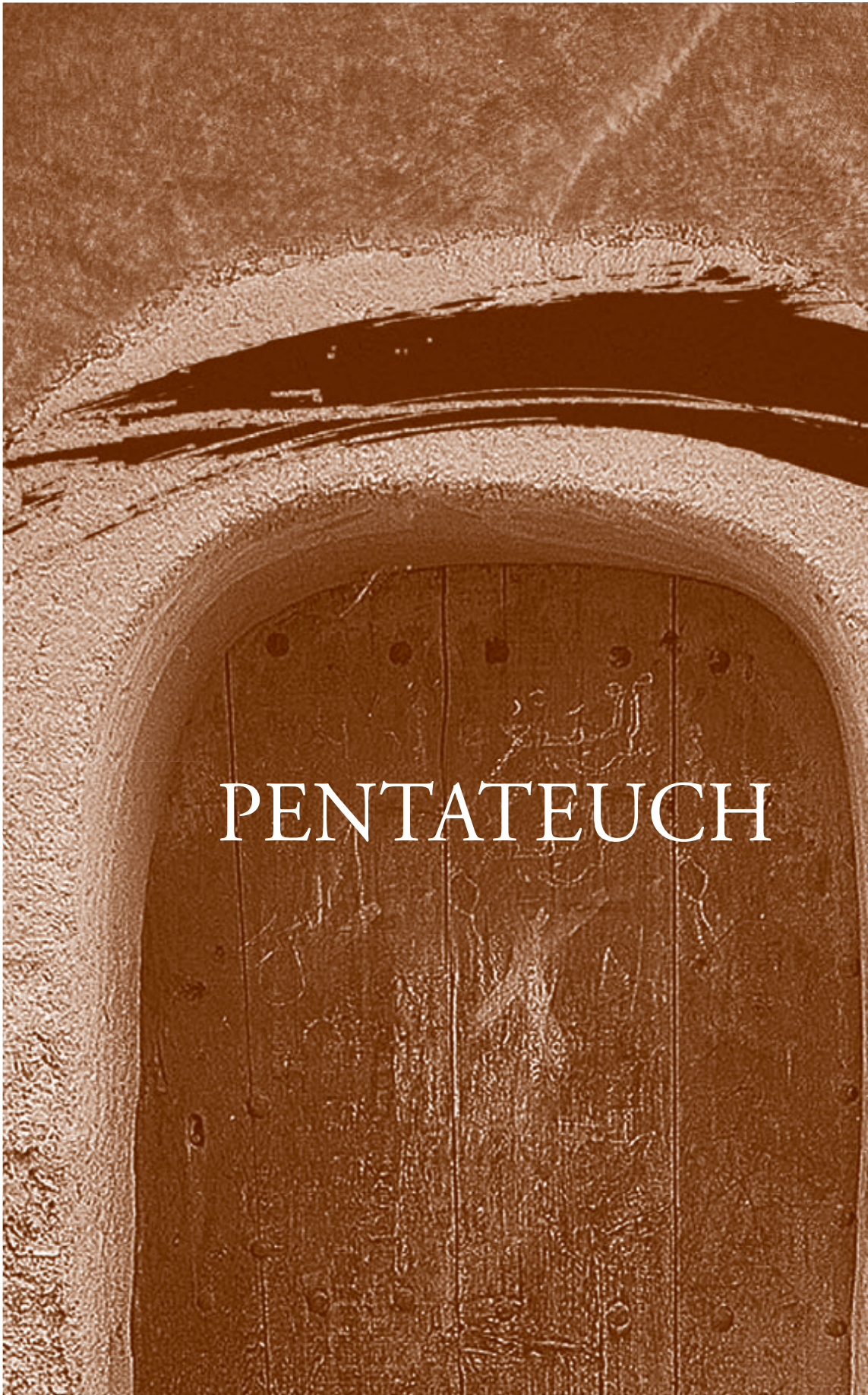
Later Jesus appeared to the rest of the disciples and said, “When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled” (Luke 24:44). Then, once again, he did what he had done before. Luke records: “Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures” (24:45).

When we read through the sermons in Acts and through the rest of the New Testament, we realize that those who learned how to read the Old Testament from Jesus went on to present the gospel of Jesus in the same manner he did—not beginning with his birth or his teachings or even his death and resurrection, but beginning with the Old Testament. The New Testament writers teach us how to read and understand the entire Old Testament with gospel eyes.

This is how we will seek to discover Jesus through the pages of this book over the coming year. We’re not looking to impose or insert what is not there but to bring to light what is clearly there—though we might have never seen it before. As we move through the books of the Old Testament, we’ll see that they anticipate Christ’s suffering and glory in their own ways. We’ll embrace the story of the acts of God in human history in light of where it leads—to the climactic achievement of Christ.

It is my prayer that you will, along with me, stand back in wonder at the magnificence of God’s plan for redemption and at his providence and power to bring about that plan. I hope that, along with me, you’ll discover more reasons to trust the whole of Scripture and to love the God of Scripture. I hope your mind will be challenged and your heart will be broken by the beauty of Christ on display through the whole of the Old Testament. And I hope that as we look together at how the Old Testament prepares us for the person and work of Christ, we will move closer to worshiping him according to his marvelous and matchless worth.

*Nancy Guthrie*



# PENTATEUCH

JANUARY 1

# BEFORE HE MADE THE WORLD

Usually it makes sense to start at the beginning. But when looking for footprints of the eternal Jesus, we have to start before the beginning—before the “in the beginning” of Genesis 1:1—because the Bible repeatedly speaks of a time before time when God’s plan for the world, centered in Jesus Christ, took shape.

What was the plan God was making before time began? Paul tells us in a letter he wrote to Timothy: “God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from *before the beginning of time*—to show us his grace through Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 1:9, emphasis added).

Since before time began, God has wanted to show us something—something significant that puts the glory of who he is on display. He has wanted to show us his grace—to shower his forgiveness on people who don’t deserve it. Jesus has always been and will always be at the center of that plan.

The sending of Jesus into our world as a man who died for sin was no afterthought to fix what Adam and Eve ruined. Sending Jesus was no plan B but God’s glorious plan A from before the beginning! “God chose him as your ransom long before the world began,” Peter explained (1 Peter 1:20). Paul put it this way, “Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure” (Ephesians 1:4-5).

Before the beginning, God knew that he would make us and that we would reject him. He knew that we would need a Savior and that the only One who could save us would be his own Son. From eternity past, Jesus has been the center of God’s plan. And into eternity future, Jesus and his work on the cross will continue to be the center of God’s glorious plan.

† *You who loved me before time began, how could I ever question your plans for this world and for my life? Your magnificent plan to display your glory and your loving plan for me began before the beginning, and I am humbled and quieted before such a Sovereign God.*

JANUARY 2  
 CREATOR

“In the beginning God created” (Genesis 1:1). How did God create? He spoke each aspect of creation into being. Throughout the rest of the Old Testament, we continue to see the power of God’s creative word as it comes again and again through the prophets: “This is what the LORD says.”

It is no accident that the first words in the Gospel of John are exactly the same as the first words in the book of Genesis. John writes: “*In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him*” (John 1:1-3, emphasis added). This sheds light on the mystery of who the “us” was when God said, “Let *us* make human beings in our image, to be like us” (Genesis 1:26, emphasis added). John tells us, “The Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John wanted us to understand that Jesus is the agent through whom everything created was called into being. He tells us that Jesus is the *logos*, the outward expression of all God is. So every time we read the phrase “then God said” in the first chapter of Genesis, we know that it is Jesus, the living Word of God, accomplishing God’s creative work.

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.

He existed before anything was created and is supreme over  
 all creation,

for through him God created everything  
 in the heavenly realms and on earth.

He made the things we can see  
 and the things we can’t see—

such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in  
 the unseen world.

Everything was created through him and for him.

(Colossians 1:15-16)

If everything was created not only *through* him but also *for* him, that means everything that exists, exists for Jesus. Nothing in the universe was created or exists for its own sake, but rather to make the glory of God more fully known.

† *Creator of all there is, I marvel at what you have made, what you have spoken into being. Seeing you as Creator helps me to see what I was made for. I was made for you, and I am yours.*

JANUARY 3

## HIS SPIRIT FILLS THE EMPTINESS

God's story begins with God's Spirit hovering, filling what was empty with his own power and life: "The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light" (Genesis 1:2-3).

So from the very beginning, and over and over again in Scripture, we see that this is who God is and the nature of what he does: God, through his Spirit, fills up what is empty to accomplish his purposes in the world. God filled Sarah's empty womb. "It was by faith that even Sarah was able to have a child, though she was barren and was too old. She believed that God would keep his promise. And so a whole nation came from this one man who was as good as dead—a nation with so many people that, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore, there is no way to count them" (Hebrews 11:11-12).

The same Spirit who filled the emptiness of earth and the emptiness of Sarah's womb was at work when the angel said to Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born to you will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God" (Luke 1:35).

This earth was filled with the light of Christ as he walked upon it, and even as he left this earth, he promised the Spirit would still be at work. "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Jesus promised that the Spirit of God would come and fill the emptiness his followers felt at his departure in a way that would comfort them and empower them to impact the world around them (John 14).

*† Spirit of God, how I thank you for coming upon me and overshadowing me, making new life where there was deadness, bringing light where there was darkness. I simply cannot create new spiritual life on my own. I need your power to work inside me so that Christ can be born in me.*



JANUARY 4  
 THE TRUE LIGHT

The world began as one huge mass of unarranged material shrouded by impenetrable night. Then, on the first day of creation, “God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. Then he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light ‘day’ and the darkness ‘night’” (Genesis 1:3-5).

It wasn’t until the fourth day of creation that “God made two great lights—the larger one to govern the day, and the smaller one to govern the night” (Genesis 1:16). Before that, there was light in the world, but no sun in the sky.

John identified the source of this light when he began his Gospel with a poetic tribute to this Light. He recognized Jesus as the Light that penetrated the darkness even before the sun was set in the sky:

In the beginning the Word already existed.  
 The Word was with God,  
 and the Word was God.  
 He existed in the beginning with God.  
 God created everything through him,  
 and nothing was created except through him.  
 The Word gave life to everything that was created,  
 and his life brought light to everyone.  
 The light shines in the darkness,  
 and the darkness can never extinguish it. (John 1:1-5)

“The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world,” John wrote (John 1:9). This Light is no mere reflector of the sun’s light but is the source of light, the One who spoke the sun into being.

Jesus later spoke of a time to come when “the sun will be darkened, the moon will give no light” (Matthew 24:29). For those who have rejected the true Light, that will be a day of deep mourning. But for those who have embraced the Light, that day will usher in a new way of living in the Light. Jesus himself will be present among his people, and we will live with him in a city that “has no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God illuminates the city, and the Lamb is its light” (Revelation 21:23).

† *True Light, your radiance penetrates the darkest places in the world I live in and the darkest places in my heart. Shine on me now and into eternity.*

JANUARY 5

## MADE IN HIS IMAGE

The final creative act on day six of creation began with this divine deliberation: “God said, ‘Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us’” (Genesis 1:26).

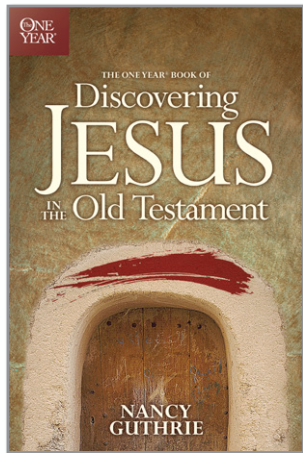
What does it mean to be made in God’s image? We are in God’s image in our ability to think and feel and love, in our ability to understand right from wrong, and in our ability to make choices. We’re like him in that he is Spirit and we have a spirit. We are patterned after our Maker.

But something terrible happened to that divine image when Adam and Eve sinned. The image of God in humans became distorted and damaged. So now, although we are still in his image, aspects of that image have become twisted, and the sinful nature we inherited from Adam and Eve has been passed from generation to generation. We long for the day when that marred image of God in us will be restored to its original beauty. Yet God has planned to do something even greater than restore what his image in us once was in the Garden. God intends for the original image of God in humankind to be restored and even superseded by the greater glory of becoming a new creation in Christ.

Jesus is “the visible image of the invisible God” (Colossians 1:15), “the exact representation of his being” (Hebrews 1:3, NIV). And “those God foreknew he also predestined to be *conformed to the likeness* of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers” (Romans 8:29, NIV, emphasis added).

God intends to conform us to the image of Christ—and the completion of this process is still in the future for us, on the day Christ returns and we are given resurrection bodies. Yet we are, even now, being glorified—our inner lives and characters are being gradually changed into his likeness by the sanctifying power of his Holy Spirit. This is not something we do, but something we receive. The righteousness and holiness that are the image of God in us are created in us, not elicited from us. “We are God’s workmanship” (Ephesians 2:10, NIV).

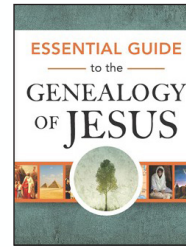
† *I am your child, made in your image, but you have not yet shown me all of what I will be like when you appear. But I know I will be like you, for on that day I will see you as you really are.*



## The One Year® Book of Discovering Jesus in the Old Testament

We tend to look to the New Testament to tell us about Jesus, yet it was the Old Testament about which Jesus said, “The Scriptures point to me!” In *The One Year Book of Discovering Jesus in the Old Testament*, Bible teacher Nancy Guthrie takes readers from Genesis through Malachi, shining the light of Christ on the promise of a descendent who will put an end to the curse of sin, the story of a father who offers up his son as a sacrifice; the symbol of a temple where people can meet with God, the prophecy of a servant who will suffer, the person of a king who will rule with righteousness—and so much more. Day by day throughout the year, readers will see the beauty of Christ in fresh new ways, creating a deeper understanding and appreciation for who Jesus is and what he accomplished through the Cross and Resurrection.

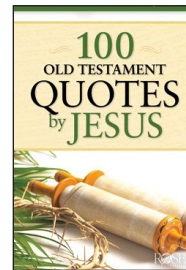
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