

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

# HOLY BIBLE



ZONDERVAN®

NIV Witness Bible  
Copyright © 2011 by Zondervan  
All rights reserved.

The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®  
Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™  
Used by Permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Published by Zondervan  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49530, USA

[www.zondervan.com](http://www.zondervan.com)

“New International Version” and “NIV” are registered trademarks of Biblica, Inc.™  
Used by permission.

---

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 2010939326

---

The NIV® text may be quoted in any form (written, visual, electronic or audio), up to and inclusive of five hundred (500) verses without the express written permission of the publisher, providing the verses quoted do not amount to a complete book of the Bible nor do the verses quoted account for twenty-five percent (25%) or more of the total text of the work in which they are quoted.

Notice of copyright must appear on the title or copyright page as follows:

Scripture quotations taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version® NIV®  
Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™  
Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

The “NIV” and “New International Version” are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trade-mark Office by Biblica, Inc.™

When quotations from the NIV® text are used by a local church in non-saleable media such as church bulletins, orders of service, posters, overhead transparencies, or similar materials, a complete copyright notice is not required, but the initials (NIV®) must appear at the end of each quotation.

Any commentary or other biblical reference work produced for commercial sale, that uses the NIV® text must obtain written permission for use of the NIV® text.

Permission requests for commercial use within the USA and Canada that exceeds the above guidelines must be directed to, and approved in writing by Zondervan, 5300 Patterson Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49530, USA. [www.Zondervan.com](http://www.Zondervan.com)

Permission requests for commercial use within the UK, EU and EFTA that exceeds the above guidelines must be directed to, and approved in writing by Hodder & Stoughton Limited, 338 Euston Road, London NW1 3BH, United Kingdom. [www.Hodder.co.uk](http://www.Hodder.co.uk)

Permission requests for non-commercial use that exceeds the above guidelines must be directed to, and approved in writing by Biblica US, Inc., 1820 Jet Stream Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80921, USA. [www.Biblica.com](http://www.Biblica.com)

Any Internet addresses (websites, blogs, etc.) and telephone numbers printed in this Bible are offered as a resource. They are not intended in any way to be or imply an endorsement by Zondervan, nor does Zondervan vouch for the content of these sites and numbers for the life of the Bible.

*Printed in the United States of America*

N101210

---

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 /DPM/ 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

A portion of the purchase price of your NIV® Bible is provided to Biblica so together we support the mission of *Transforming lives through God's Word*.



Biblica provides God's Word to people through translation, publishing and Bible engagement in Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America, Middle East, and North America. Through its worldwide reach, Biblica engages people with God's Word so that their lives are transformed through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

# Genesis

## The Beginning

**1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. <sup>4</sup>God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

<sup>6</sup>And God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.”

<sup>7</sup>So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. <sup>8</sup>God called the vault “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

<sup>9</sup>And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. <sup>10</sup>God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good.

<sup>11</sup>Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. <sup>12</sup>The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup>And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

<sup>14</sup>And God said, “Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, <sup>15</sup>and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so.

<sup>16</sup>God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. <sup>17</sup>God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, <sup>18</sup>to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup>And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup>And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.” <sup>21</sup>So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup>God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.” <sup>23</sup>And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup>And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. <sup>25</sup>God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup>Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals,<sup>a</sup> and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

<sup>27</sup>So God created mankind in his own image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup>God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

<sup>29</sup>Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. <sup>30</sup>And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

<sup>a</sup> 26 Probable reading of the original Hebrew text (see Syriac); Masoretic Text *the earth*

- Why are you so far from saving me,  
so far from my cries of anguish?  
<sup>2</sup>My God, I cry out by day, but you do not  
answer,  
by night, but I find no rest.<sup>a</sup>
- <sup>3</sup>Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One;  
you are the one Israel praises.<sup>b</sup>
- <sup>4</sup>In you our ancestors put their trust;  
they trusted and you delivered them.
- <sup>5</sup>To you they cried out and were saved;  
in you they trusted and were not put  
to shame.
- <sup>6</sup>But I am a worm and not a man,  
scorned by everyone, despised by the  
people.
- <sup>7</sup>All who see me mock me;  
they hurl insults, shaking their heads.
- <sup>8</sup>"He trusts in the LORD," they say,  
"let the LORD rescue him.  
Let him deliver him,  
since he delights in him."
- <sup>9</sup>Yet you brought me out of the womb;  
you made me trust in you, even at my  
mother's breast.
- <sup>10</sup>From birth I was cast on you;  
from my mother's womb you have  
been my God.
- <sup>11</sup>Do not be far from me,  
for trouble is near  
and there is no one to help.
- <sup>12</sup>Many bulls surround me;  
strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.
- <sup>13</sup>Roaring lions that tear their prey  
open their mouths wide against me.
- <sup>14</sup>I am poured out like water,  
and all my bones are out of joint.  
My heart has turned to wax;  
it has melted within me.
- <sup>15</sup>My mouth<sup>c</sup> is dried up like a potsherd,  
and my tongue sticks to the roof of my  
mouth;  
you lay me in the dust of death.
- <sup>16</sup>Dogs surround me,  
a pack of villains encircles me;  
they pierce<sup>d</sup> my hands and my feet.
- <sup>17</sup>All my bones are on display;  
people stare and gloat over me.
- <sup>18</sup>They divide my clothes among them  
and cast lots for my garment.
- <sup>19</sup>But you, LORD, do not be far from me.  
You are my strength; come quickly to  
help me.
- <sup>20</sup>Deliver me from the sword,  
my precious life from the power of the  
dogs.
- <sup>21</sup>Rescue me from the mouth of the lions;  
save me from the horns of the wild  
oxen.
- <sup>22</sup>I will declare your name to my people;  
in the assembly I will praise you.
- <sup>23</sup>You who fear the LORD, praise him!  
All you descendants of Jacob, honor  
him!  
Revere him, all you descendants of  
Israel!
- <sup>24</sup>For he has not despised or scorned  
the suffering of the afflicted one;  
he has not hidden his face from him  
but has listened to his cry for help.
- <sup>25</sup>From you comes the theme of my praise  
in the great assembly;  
before those who fear you<sup>e</sup> I will fulfill  
my vows.
- <sup>26</sup>The poor will eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek the LORD will praise  
him —  
may your hearts live forever!
- <sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth  
will remember and turn to  
the LORD,  
and all the families of the nations  
will bow down before him,
- <sup>28</sup>for dominion belongs to the LORD  
and he rules over the nations.
- <sup>29</sup>All the rich of the earth will feast and  
worship;  
all who go down to the dust will kneel  
before him —  
those who cannot keep themselves  
alive.
- <sup>30</sup>Posterity will serve him;  
future generations will be told about  
the Lord.
- <sup>31</sup>They will proclaim his righteousness,  
declaring to a people yet unborn:  
He has done it!

## Psalm 23

*A psalm of David.*

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green  
pastures,

<sup>a</sup> 2 Or *night, and am not silent*    <sup>b</sup> 3 Or *Yet you are holy, / enthroned on the praises of Israel*    <sup>c</sup> 15 Probable reading of the original Hebrew text; Masoretic Text *strength*    <sup>d</sup> 16 Dead Sea Scrolls and some manuscripts of the Masoretic Text, Septuagint and Syriac; most manuscripts of the Masoretic Text *me, / like a lion*    <sup>e</sup> 25 Hebrew *him*

he leads me beside quiet waters,  
<sup>3</sup> he refreshes my soul.  
 He guides me along the right paths  
 for his name's sake.  
<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk  
 through the darkest valley,<sup>a</sup>  
 I will fear no evil,  
 for you are with me;  
 your rod and your staff,  
 they comfort me.  
<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me  
 in the presence of my enemies.  
 You anoint my head with oil;  
 my cup overflows.  
<sup>6</sup> Surely your goodness and love will  
 follow me  
 all the days of my life,  
 and I will dwell in the house of the LORD  
 forever.

### Psalm 24

*Of David. A psalm.*

<sup>1</sup> The earth is the LORD's, and everything  
 in it,  
 the world, and all who live in it;  
<sup>2</sup> for he founded it on the seas  
 and established it on the waters.  
<sup>3</sup> Who may ascend the mountain of the  
 LORD?  
 Who may stand in his holy place?  
<sup>4</sup> The one who has clean hands and a pure  
 heart,  
 who does not trust in an idol  
 or swear by a false god.<sup>b</sup>  
<sup>5</sup> They will receive blessing from  
 the LORD  
 and vindication from God their  
 Savior.  
<sup>6</sup> Such is the generation of those who seek  
 him,  
 who seek your face, God of Jacob.<sup>c,d</sup>  
<sup>7</sup> Lift up your heads, you gates;  
 be lifted up, you ancient doors,  
 that the King of glory may come in.  
<sup>8</sup> Who is this King of glory?  
 The LORD strong and mighty,  
 the LORD mighty in battle.  
<sup>9</sup> Lift up your heads, you gates;  
 lift them up, you ancient doors,  
 that the King of glory may come in.

<sup>10</sup> Who is he, this King of glory?  
 The LORD Almighty—  
 he is the King of glory.

### Psalm 25<sup>e</sup>

*Of David.*

<sup>1</sup> In you, LORD my God,  
 I put my trust.  
<sup>2</sup> I trust in you;  
 do not let me be put to shame,  
 nor let my enemies triumph  
 over me.  
<sup>3</sup> No one who hopes in you  
 will ever be put to shame,  
 but shame will come on those  
 who are treacherous without cause.  
<sup>4</sup> Show me your ways, LORD,  
 teach me your paths.  
<sup>5</sup> Guide me in your truth and teach me,  
 for you are God my Savior,  
 and my hope is in you all day long.  
<sup>6</sup> Remember, LORD, your great mercy  
 and love,  
 for they are from of old.  
<sup>7</sup> Do not remember the sins of my  
 youth  
 and my rebellious ways;  
 according to your love remember me,  
 for you, LORD, are good.  
<sup>8</sup> Good and upright is the LORD;  
 therefore he instructs sinners in his  
 ways.  
<sup>9</sup> He guides the humble in what is right  
 and teaches them his way.  
<sup>10</sup> All the ways of the LORD are loving and  
 faithful  
 toward those who keep the demands  
 of his covenant.  
<sup>11</sup> For the sake of your name, LORD,  
 forgive my iniquity, though it is great.  
<sup>12</sup> Who, then, are those who fear the LORD?  
 He will instruct them in the ways they  
 should choose.<sup>f</sup>  
<sup>13</sup> They will spend their days in prosperity,  
 and their descendants will inherit the  
 land.  
<sup>14</sup> The LORD confides in those who fear  
 him;  
 he makes his covenant known to  
 them.

<sup>a</sup> 4 Or *the valley of the shadow of death*    <sup>b</sup> 4 Or *swear falsely*    <sup>c</sup> 6 Two Hebrew manuscripts and Syriac (see also Septuagint); most Hebrew manuscripts *face, Jacob*    <sup>d</sup> 6 The Hebrew has *Selah* (a word of uncertain meaning) here and at the end of verse 10.    <sup>e</sup> This psalm is an acrostic poem, the verses of which begin with the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet.    <sup>f</sup> 12 Or *ways he chooses*

to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”

<sup>15</sup>Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.

<sup>16</sup>As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup>And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

### Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness

**4** Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted<sup>a</sup> by the devil. <sup>2</sup>After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup>The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

<sup>4</sup>Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’<sup>b</sup>”

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. <sup>6</sup>“If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written:

“‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’<sup>c</sup>”

<sup>7</sup>Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’<sup>d</sup>”

<sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. <sup>9</sup>“All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

<sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’<sup>e</sup>”

<sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

### Jesus Begins to Preach

<sup>12</sup>When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup>Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali— <sup>14</sup>to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

<sup>15</sup>“Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—

<sup>16</sup>the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.”<sup>f</sup>

<sup>17</sup>From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

### Jesus Calls His First Disciples

<sup>18</sup>As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup>“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” <sup>20</sup>At once they left their nets and followed him.

<sup>21</sup>Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, <sup>22</sup>and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

### Jesus Heals the Sick

<sup>23</sup>Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. <sup>24</sup>News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them. <sup>25</sup>Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis,<sup>g</sup> Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.

### Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount

**5** Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, <sup>2</sup>and he began to teach them.

### The Beatitudes

He said:

<sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>a</sup> 1 The Greek for *tempted* can also mean *tested*. <sup>b</sup> 4 Deut. 8:3 <sup>c</sup> 6 Psalm 91:11,12 <sup>d</sup> 7 Deut. 6:16 <sup>e</sup> 10 Deut. 6:13 <sup>f</sup> 16 Isaiah 9:1,2 <sup>g</sup> 25 That is, the Ten Cities

<sup>7</sup>Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.

<sup>8</sup>Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who are persecuted  
because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when people insult you,  
persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil  
against you because of me. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be  
glad, because great is your reward in heaven,  
for in the same way they persecuted the proph-  
ets who were before you.

### Salt and Light

<sup>13</sup>“You are the salt of the earth. But if the  
salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty  
again? It is no longer good for anything, except to  
be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

<sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A town  
built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>Neither do  
people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. In-  
stead they put it on its stand, and it gives light  
to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let  
your light shine before others, that they may  
see your good deeds and glorify your Father in  
heaven.

### The Fulfillment of the Law

<sup>17</sup>“Do not think that I have come to abolish  
the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to  
abolish them but to fulfill them. <sup>18</sup>For truly I  
tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not  
the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen,  
will by any means disappear from the Law un-  
til everything is accomplished. <sup>19</sup>Therefore  
anyone who sets aside one of the least of these  
commands and teaches others accordingly  
will be called least in the kingdom of heaven,  
but whoever practices and teaches these com-  
mands will be called great in the kingdom of  
heaven. <sup>20</sup>For I tell you that unless your righ-  
teousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and  
the teachers of the law, you will certainly not  
enter the kingdom of heaven.

### Murder

<sup>21</sup>“You have heard that it was said to the  
people long ago, ‘You shall not murder,<sup>a</sup> and  
anyone who murders will be subject to judg-  
ment.’ <sup>22</sup>But I tell you that anyone who is an-  
gry with a brother or sister<sup>b,c</sup> will be subject to

judgment. Again, anyone who says to a broth-  
er or sister, ‘Raca,’<sup>d</sup> is answerable to the court.  
And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in  
danger of the fire of hell.

<sup>23</sup>“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at  
the altar and there remember that your brother  
or sister has something against you, <sup>24</sup>leave your  
gift there in front of the altar. First go and be rec-  
onciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

<sup>25</sup>“Settle matters quickly with your adver-  
sary who is taking you to court. Do it while  
you are still together on the way, or your ad-  
versary may hand you over to the judge, and  
the judge may hand you over to the officer, and  
you may be thrown into prison. <sup>26</sup>Truly I tell  
you, you will not get out until you have paid  
the last penny.

### Adultery

<sup>27</sup>“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall  
not commit adultery.’<sup>e</sup> <sup>28</sup>But I tell you that any-  
one who looks at a woman lustfully has already  
committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup>If  
your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it  
out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose  
one part of your body than for your whole body  
to be thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup>And if your right hand  
causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it  
away. It is better for you to lose one part of your  
body than for your whole body to go into hell.

### Divorce

<sup>31</sup>“It has been said, ‘Anyone who divorces  
his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’<sup>f</sup>  
<sup>32</sup>But I tell you that anyone who divorces his  
wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her  
the victim of adultery, and anyone who mar-  
ries a divorced woman commits adultery.

### Oaths

<sup>33</sup>“Again, you have heard that it was said to  
the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath,  
but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.’

<sup>34</sup>But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: ei-  
ther by heaven, for it is God’s throne; <sup>35</sup>or by  
the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem,  
for it is the city of the Great King. <sup>36</sup>And do not  
swear by your head, for you cannot make even  
one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup>All you need to say  
is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond this  
comes from the evil one.<sup>g</sup>

### Eye for Eye

<sup>38</sup>“You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for  
eye, and tooth for tooth.’<sup>h</sup> <sup>39</sup>But I tell you, do

<sup>a</sup> 21 Exodus 20:13 <sup>b</sup> 22 The Greek word for *brother or sister* (*adelphos*) refers here to a fellow disciple, whether man or woman; also in verse 23. <sup>c</sup> 22 Some manuscripts *brother or sister without cause* <sup>d</sup> 22 An Aramaic term of contempt <sup>e</sup> 27 Exodus 20:14 <sup>f</sup> 31 Deut. 24:1 <sup>g</sup> 37 Or *from evil* <sup>h</sup> 38 Exodus 21:24; Lev. 24:20; Deut. 19:21