

BOOK 2: MOSES—JONAH

Answers •
Family
Bible Devotional
A faith-building walk
through the Bible

MIKE & LIBBY WILD



Answers
IN GENESIS®

Answers Family Devotional

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Introduction

A strong, foundational understanding of God's Word is the only answer for our families and future generations.

As Christian parents, we can list dozens of ways that the godless culture around us threatens the well-being of our children. However, instead of focusing on the negative and helplessly watching children walk away from the church, we can proactively build a strong and sure foundation in our children—a foundation built on the unchanging Word of the unchanging God.

Teaching God's Word clearly, systematically, and consistently provides an anchor for our children to cling to in an age of skepticism. Understanding God's Word enables our children to understand their sinfulness before a holy God and their need for a savior. Understanding God's Word prepares and equips them to face the anti-biblical culture around them and to emerge resolute in their faith.

Our children are our first disciples, and if we want them to thrive in a world that grows more hostile to the gospel every day, they must know why they believe what they believe. In order for our children to remain steadfast in God's Word, they must know it for themselves.

God and his true story are the focal point of this Bible devotional. We will be discovering the historical events given in the Bible as they happened (chronologically), bringing attention to God's attributes and grand plan. We will be tracing redemption through the Bible as well as seeing God's amazing purposes (and how we fit into them) as it applies from before the beginning until the consummation of the ages.

While this is not a comprehensive devotional on every biblical topic, it will enable your family to study the clear, consistent, and thematic teachings in God's Word.

God has given us everything we need for life and godliness so that we might teach our children to walk in a manner worthy of our calling (Ephesians 4:1). Let us study together as families for the glory of our good and gracious God!

How to Use This Devotional

This devotional is the second in a series of five books that covers material from the beginning all the way to the consummation of the ages and the new creation. The goal is for you to develop a biblical perspective of the world past and future, understand God's redemptive plan which was set in place from the beginning, and realize God's purpose for you and your family.

These devotions have been carefully created based on over 20 years of real-life experience raising four boys in biblical truth while church planting cross-culturally in Asia Pacific. Credit must be given to Trevor McIlwain for his curriculum *Beginning on Firm Foundations*, which we taught from for many years in a tribal context. Trevor's work gave us much inspiration toward the creation of this devotional.

For you to get the most out of this devotional, we offer these guidelines.

1. Don't rush. This might be the hardest challenge you face!

Make sure that you set aside in your daily or weekly schedule the appropriate time to read and discuss each devotion. You and your children will need that time to marinate on each lesson. It won't take long for your family to "taste and see that the Lord is good!" Soon you will see the constant patterns and themes that permeate the Bible from beginning until the end. You may want to spend several days on one devotion, depending on your schedule. Feel free to pause any of the devotionals at any time and save the rest of it for the following day.

2. Read the core questions.

The core questions are foundational truths of the Christian faith. We encourage you to begin each lesson with the core question. You might even make it a goal as a family to memorize a few.

3. Read all scripture portions.

God's Word is where the power lies. We know that the clear reading of God's Word will not return void in the hearts of the hearers. Make it a practice to differentiate the reading of scripture and the devotion sections. When you get to a scripture reading, look it up in your Bible. This is a good opportunity for dad, mom, or older siblings to have a part in the devotion by taking turns reading the Bible portions. From the first day, we want to point clearly to the authority of God's Word and allow it to do its work in the hearts of our children. Some devotionals have longer passages to read than others. Feel free to read as you have time and pick up with the next portion the following day.

3. Don't skip devotionals.

These devotions are based on over 20 years of Bible teaching in different languages, cultures, and contexts. Each is important and builds on the previous one. Each has purpose and will direct your family toward a confident biblical worldview. If you are faithful to read and teach from each one, we trust that by God's grace the same good results that we witnessed among our own children and the remote Wano tribe will be seen among your own children and loved ones.

4. Go over the review questions.

The review questions are a crucial part of this devotional. You can gauge whether your children are comprehending the lessons by how they answer. We recommend that you not only end each devotion with the questions, but start tomorrow's with a quick look back at the previous lesson's questions. You will be amazed at comprehension retention by following this principle!

5. Encourage discussion with your children and loved ones.

During the body of each devotion, or during the review questions, encourage your children to discuss what they are hearing. This allows them to feel a part of the study and to show what they are learning.

6. Review throughout the day.

Look for opportunities to review or back up teaching that you are learning through your study of God's Word together with your children. This shows them that all times are good times to discuss God's Word, not just during the devotion time. Impart a holistic, Christian worldview by reinforcing and living out what you are learning through this devotion.

May the Lord bless you and your family as you embark on this chronological journey through the Bible. Keep on the path until the end and you will be rewarded by a truly biblical worldview which is the foundation for living lives that glorify the Lord.

Mike and Libby Wild



Bonus

Dinosaurs and Dragons

Were the dinosaurs and the dragons truly part of God's creation? *The dinosaurs and the dragons were created by our mighty God on the sixth day of the creation week.*

As we continue with our walk through the Bible's history, let's take some time to apply what we've already learned to a fun topic: dinosaurs!

Dinosaurs and dragons capture the imagination of just about everyone from young to old. Our minds fill with wonder as we ponder what they were really like when they walked the earth. What did they look like? What covered their bodies? What was their behavior and where did they live? How did they interact with each other and other animals?

Although there's a lot we don't know about dinosaurs, scientists have learned more and more by studying their fossils. Of course, those fossils don't come with attached tags explaining how old they are or what color skin they had. Instead, we use what we know of the past to make sense of the fossils and other artifacts that we find today. The best place to begin when it comes to the past is by studying the word of one who was there and who knows everything—the Bible!

The Bible helps us make sense of when dinosaurs lived and what they were like.

Mystery or Mere Legend?

Dinosaurs are awe-inspiring creatures, but they are not a mystery.

From studying the Bible, we find that land animals were created on day six of the creation week, about 6,000 years ago. By definition, dinosaurs are land animals, so we can know that God created the various dinosaur kinds on day six of the creation week, approximately 6,000 years ago. And he created the various flying reptiles like pteranodons on day five, along with the swimming reptiles like plesiosaurs.

In the beginning, God gave plants to all animals and people to eat. Dinosaurs, too, were originally vegetarian. God called everything—including the dinosaurs—“very good.” So Adam and Eve would have had no problems hanging out with dinosaurs in the beginning!

About 1,600 years later, during the global flood, all the land animals, including dinosaurs, were buried in the floodwaters and many were fossilized. Two of each kind (seven pairs of some) survived on Noah’s ark. Of course, Noah didn’t need to take the largest of each dinosaur kind on the ark. He likely would have brought younger, smaller representatives. And, although we tend to think of the huge apatosaurus when we think of dinosaurs, the average size was the size of a buffalo! Additionally, remember that Noah took representatives from each *kind* of dinosaur. So he didn’t need to take, for example, two triceratops and two protoceratops and two nedoceratops. He just needed two from the ceratopsian kind. There were likely about 60–80 dinosaur kinds or less than 200 dinosaurs on the ark.

After they all came off the ark, they multiplied and eventually spread out over the earth. Where are they today? Eventually the dinosaurs died out, like many other animals, due to human activity, climate changes, or other factors.

Behemoth: A Hippo?

Does the Bible mention dinosaurs directly? Let’s look at a passage that seems to describe what is very likely a dinosaur. This is found in the book of Job. We studied Job before. He lived about 300 years after the flood. Check out this large animal that he saw living near him.

Read Job 40:15–24.

What could behemoth be? The description doesn't seem to fit any living animal we know of today. Could behemoth just be a legend? Definitely not! We have learned that God's Word is not a book of legends and myths but a book of historical facts. Job is describing an animal that lived somewhere near him and that he was familiar with.

Is behemoth an animal that we may be familiar with? For instance, some suggest behemoth could be a hippopotamus. But a hippopotamus doesn't have a tail the size of a cedar tree, does it? Others suggest it could be an elephant. Yet an elephant's tail is also relatively thin and small when compared to a large cedar tree.

The description of behemoth seems to match a sauropod dinosaur, one of the largest dinosaurs created by God. Can you imagine living together with sauropods? How did Job feel when he saw behemoth hanging out in the reeds and ferns by the water? Surely we would be filled with wonder and would praise the great creator!

What Is a Leviathan?

There's another amazing beast described in the book of Job.

Read Job 41:1–34.

The leviathan is another animal that doesn't seem to be around today. This creature does not sound as friendly as the behemoth. The Bible describes it as a mighty animal that is able to overwhelm the hunter and his breath sets coals ablaze and flames dart from his mouth. This wasn't a dinosaur but was some type of marine reptile. This couldn't be anything that we see at the zoo today, and if it was around today, I don't know if a zoo would be able to contain it!

Dragons = Dinosaurs?

There are other evidences that humans lived alongside dinosaurs. In Carlisle, England, a bishop was buried in AD 1496. On his tomb are engravings of an eel, dogs, a bird, a pig, fish, and two sauropod dinosaurs! The people of northern England in the late 1400s may have been acquainted with living sauropod dinosaurs, perhaps the last remnants of a surviving post-flood herd.

In Natural Bridges National Monument, located in southeast Utah, there are several Native American petroglyphs (rock carvings

and etchings) and pictographs (paintings on rock) on the sandstone canyon walls. Most were done by the Anasazi people from about AD 1 to AD 1300. At one location (Kachina Bridge) there are several handprints, carvings of geometric shapes, animals, such as a bighorn sheep, a turtle, and what appears to be an obvious sauropod dinosaur. The Anasazi people appear to have seen living sauropods.

One reason we don't have direct records of "dinosaurs" in ancient literature is because the word *dinosaur* wasn't invented until 1841. Before that time, it's likely other terms were used to describe these amazing creatures, such as *behemoth* and even *dragon*.

There are many dragon references and legends found throughout the world, including in India, Egypt, China, England, and Scandinavia. There are even dragons pictured on some countries' flags!

The Truth

Many in our culture want us to believe that man and dinosaur could not have possibly lived at the same time. Many use dinosaurs to cause us to doubt the Bible's teachings about the past. But we can stand firm on God's Word knowing the Bible comes from God, who gave us his word because he wants us to know about him and what he's done. When we study God's Word and apply it to what we see in the world around us, we can give God praise and glory as the master designer of everything, including dinosaurs!

Dinosaurs and dragons are in harmony with what we read in the Bible. They did not live millions of years ago, or separate from humans. As we study and learn to allow the Bible to guide our thinking in every area, we find there are answers to the questions people have about dinosaurs and dragons. We can be a powerful witness to a skeptical world. We want to challenge others in their thinking, showing them a different way to look at the world. For some skeptics of the Bible, as they hear the truth about dinosaurs and dragons, they become open to hearing what the rest of the Bible has to say about God and the salvation he offers through Jesus! So let us be diligent to study God's Word and science so that we will be ready to share with others how dinosaurs and dragons are explained by God's Word.

For more on dinosaurs and dragons, visit AnswersInGenesis.org/go/dinosaurs.

Discuss

1. From what sources can we get information about dinosaurs? *From the Bible and scientific research done on dinosaur fossils*
2. On what creation day were dinosaurs created by God? *Day 6*
3. What kind of dinosaur seems to match the biblical description of the behemoth? *A sauropod dinosaur*
4. How did the Bible describe the tail of the behemoth, and how is this unlike a hippopotamus? *Behemoth's tail moves like a cedar tree. Cedar trees are large and long and a hippopotamus only has a short tail.*
5. Does the Bible help us understand dinosaurs? *Yes, God graciously gave us this accurate, historical record so that we can understand when they lived.*
6. If man lived with dinosaurs, then why don't we see them today? *A worldwide flood killed all except those on the ark. After the flood, dinosaurs died out for many of the same reasons other animals have become extinct over time: humans have killed them or destroyed their habitat and food, the climate has changed and they aren't able to adapt to new temperatures, etc.*



1

God Protects Moses

Can the plans of Satan overthrow the plans of God? No, not even the futile, evil plans of Satan are wasted but used for good by the all-powerful, all-knowing Lord. See Genesis 50:20.

Read Job 42:2.

Review

In book one of the Answers Family Bible Devotional series, we went through the book of Genesis. We looked at who God is and how we know the Bible is from God. We learned that the Bible is the history book of the universe and that we need to study it so we can understand the truth about the past and how it affects us today. In Genesis, we looked at the first 4 C's in the 7 C's of History: Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, and Confusion.

We saw that God announced his plan of salvation for mankind after Adam and Eve sinned (disobeyed God's commands). He would one day send someone who would save the world from sin. This is the redeemer, who will pay a price to save people and bring them back to God. We learned that this redeemer is Jesus, the son of God.

God continued promising the redeemer to different people over the next few thousand years. He chose Abraham to be the receiver of his promise and continued the promise of the redeemer through his

son Isaac and his grandson Jacob. Through Abraham, God promised that he would make a great nation of people and give them a land to settle in. But before that, they would be in another land for 400 years. At the end of the book of Genesis, Jacob's 12 sons and their families were living in Egypt. Jacob's name had been changed to Israel and his children and grandchildren were called Israelites.

The Israelites Multiply

Read Exodus 1.

How many stars are in the heavens? Can you count them? What about the grains of sand on a beach? Have you ever scooped up sand in your hand and seen all the tiny little grains? They are countless, and this is how many descendants God promised Abraham he would have.

God kept his promises, and by the time Joseph and all his brothers had died, the Israelites who remained in Egypt had greatly increased in number. The pharaoh that knew Joseph also died, and the new pharaoh didn't know the history of the Israelites or Joseph. From his perspective, the Israelites had become too powerful, a threatening presence, and he saw no reason to show them preference or special treatment. In fact, he contemplated how to subdue them.

Remember that Satan hates God and wants to destroy mankind. He knew that a promised redeemer would come from the family of Abraham. Satan deceives people into thinking that others want to hurt them. It is not uncommon for countries and cultures to murder other groups of people because they think they are a threat to them and out to get them. History is full of this type of evil, and the root of it is hearts that turn away from God (sin) and follow the father of lies, Satan.

(This was no surprise to God. Scripture records that it was more than 400 years earlier when God told Abram that his descendants would one day be strangers in a land where they would serve and be afflicted [Genesis 15:13]. God also revealed to Abram that the Israelites would come out of that oppression with great possessions [Genesis 15:14]—which is exactly what happened when the Israelites finally left Egypt [Exodus 12:35–36].)

The new king of Egypt was an evil man, and he thought if he could lower the number of Israelites, they wouldn't be as much of a

threat to his country. What a sad conclusion he came to. He first tried to have the Israelite midwives enforce his plan but they believed in God and knew that murder was not right. They knew that children were a blessing from God and only God had the right to take a life. They refused to do the king's evil bidding. The king did not back down and resorted to even stronger force, declaring all the Israelite boys to be killed by his military.

Moses Is Born

Read Exodus 2:1–10.

In all the sadness that has happened throughout history and even today, we must be convinced in our hearts that not one tiny event takes place without the Lord's knowledge. His mercy and his grace is evident in the midst of what seems like chaos. During hardships, God is always sufficient to meet the needs of his people.

God did this for the Israelite family of Amram and Jochebed (Exodus 6:20 gives us their names). They had a beautiful baby boy, and Jochebed knew that his life was in danger. She hid her son for three months, but as the baby grew, he became harder to hide. The Bible doesn't tell us what went through her mind as she devised a plan, but surely out of desperation she waterproofed a woven basket with tar and pitch. Then she and her daughter put the basket with the baby inside in the reeds along the bank of the Nile. While the daughter watched from afar, Pharaoh's daughter came to the bank to bathe and heard the little baby crying. She called for her servant to get the basket. Then Jochebed's daughter came to Pharaoh's daughter and asked if she should find a Hebrew woman to nurse the baby.

What a great relief Jochebed must have felt as her plan succeeded, her son was spared, and she was still able to care for her baby. When the baby was weaned, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter, who adopted him as her son and named him Moses, which sounds like the Hebrew word for *draw out*.

The Bible doesn't give us the details of Moses' childhood, but we know some things from studying Egyptian history. Moses would have received the best Egyptian education in subjects like math, politics, religion, writing, music, and poetry, as well as military training like sword fighting, archery, and horseback riding. Do you suppose God

knew that Moses would need this training for something? Let's keep that in mind.

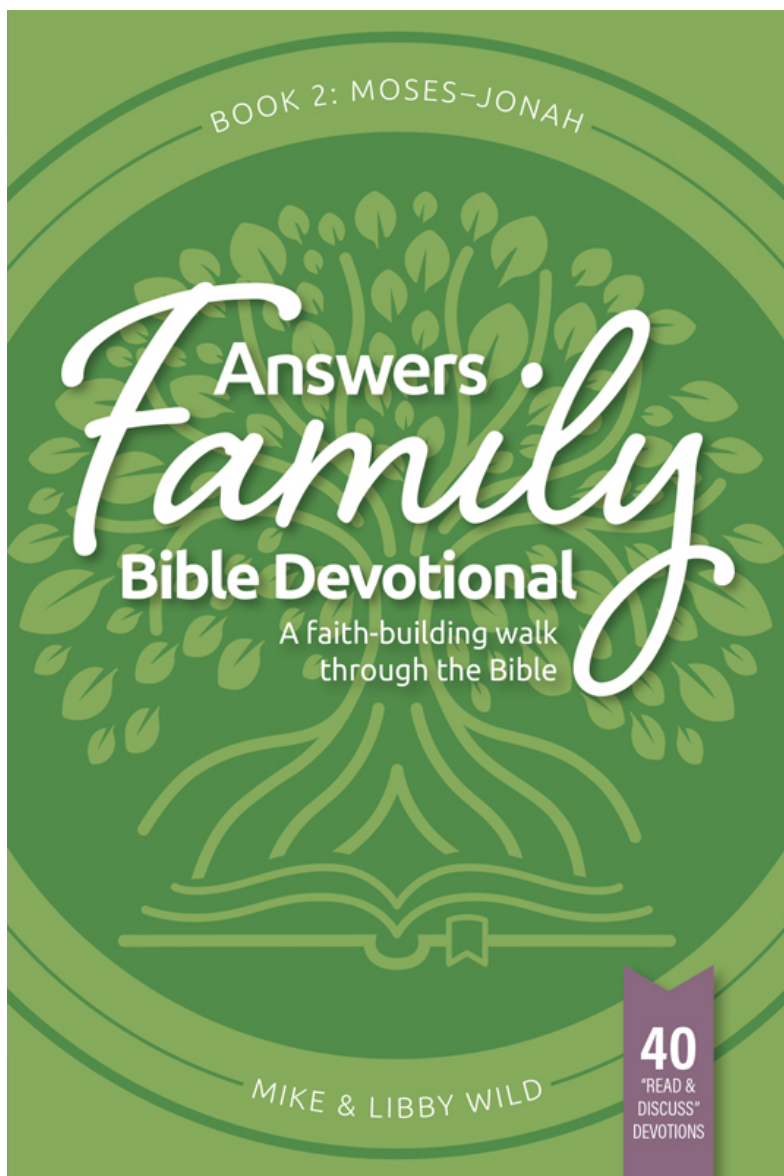
Through all of this, the Lord showed his faithfulness and sovereignty to those who lived through the events, as well as to us who read about what happened. We are tracing his work among men from generation to generation, as he fulfills every promise and pours grace and love on all that find themselves in his path. The ways of the Lord are perfect, and he spared little Moses' life and prepared a perfect path for his future adventure with the great God of the universe. It is the same for you and I today! The Lord has a plan for our lives to be used for him as we are faithful to follow him.

Historical note

MOSES AND THE PHARAOH Excavations that began in 1966 from Tell el-Daba in the Egyptian eastern delta indicate that a large Semitic-speaking population, most likely the Hebrews of the exodus, lived there during the 13th Dynasty. Since Moses was born in 1571 BC, the pharaoh over Egypt at this time was probably Amenemhet III. Archaeologists and historians have discovered that Pharaoh Amenemhet III didn't have any sons, but he had a daughter. His daughter could have been the princess who rescued Moses from the river and brought him to the palace to be her son. We can be thankful as God allows for more archaeological discoveries to be made, but we must keep in mind that our authority is the Bible. His Word is final. We do not base what we believe on what has been "proven" by men but on what has been "spoken" by God.

Discuss

1. How many descendants did God promise Abraham he would have?
As many as the stars in the sky
2. God blessed the Israelites and they grew in number in Egypt. After Joseph and all those that were with him died, the new pharaoh did not know of Joseph or what had happened long ago, and so what did he think about all the Israelites?
The new pharaoh was scared because there were so many Israelites. He thought they might join his enemies and overcome Egypt. He ordered all newborn Israelite boys to be killed.
3. How did Pharaoh first try to lower the population of the Israelites?
He ordered the Hebrew (Israelite) midwives to kill the baby boys when they were born.
4. Did the midwives obey Pharaoh's orders?
They knew and feared God. They did not obey because they knew that would be sinning against God.
5. What did Pharaoh do next?
He had his own people kill all the baby boys.
6. Pharaoh made the decree to kill the babies, but who was influencing Pharaoh?
Satan was influencing Pharaoh. Satan wanted to cut off God's plan to send the Redeemer through the Israelite people.
7. Moses' mother hid him for three months, but when she could hide him no more, what did she do to save him?
She made a small "ark" of salvation for him and set him in the Nile River.
8. Who found the baby in the basket among the reeds of the Nile River?
Pharaoh's daughter found the baby and arranged to have the baby cared for and nursed by the baby's mother until he could be weaned.
9. Who orchestrated these events in order for baby Moses to be spared?
Only the Lord our God could have arranged all this to come to pass.



Answers Family Bible Devotional Book 2: Moses—Jonah

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