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# MORNINGS *with* JESUS DAILY BIBLE

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- A Daily Encouragement for Each Day
- Prayers and Faith Steps  
to Draw You Closer to Jesus
- Easy-to-Read Type Size

## ACTUAL SIZE TYPE

### ESTHER 5:1-7:10

**5** On the third day, Esther dressed up in her royal clothing and stood in the inner courtyard of the palace facing it. The king was sitting on his royal throne in the royal courtroom, facing its entrance.<sup>2</sup> As soon as the king saw

many sons. He told them all how the king had honored him and promoted him in rank over the other officials and the royal staff.<sup>12</sup> "What's more," Haman added, "Queen Esther invited no one but me to join the king at the banquet she had prepared. I am invited again tomorrow to join her with the king."<sup>13</sup> Still

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# JANUARY 1

## GENESIS 1:1–2:25

**1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

<sup>2</sup>Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. <sup>4</sup>God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light “day,” and He called the darkness “night.” Evening came and then morning: the first day.

<sup>6</sup>Then God said, “Let there be an expanse between the waters, separating water from water.” <sup>7</sup>So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above the expanse. And it was so. <sup>8</sup>God called the expanse “sky.” Evening came and then morning: the second day.

<sup>9</sup>Then God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. <sup>10</sup>God called the dry land “earth,” and He called the gathering of the water “seas.” And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup>Then God said, “Let the earth produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds.” And it was so. <sup>12</sup>The earth produced vegetation: seed-bearing plants 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>Evening came and then morning: the third day.

<sup>14</sup>Then God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night. They will serve as signs for festivals and for days and years. <sup>15</sup>They will be lights in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth.”

And it was so. <sup>16</sup>God made the two great lights — the greater light to have dominion over the day and the lesser light to have dominion over the night — as well as the stars. <sup>17</sup>God placed them in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth, <sup>18</sup>to dominate the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup>Evening came and then morning: the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup>Then God said, “Let the water swarm with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky.” <sup>21</sup>So God created the large sea-creatures and every living creature that moves and swarms in the water, according to their kinds. He also created every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup>So God blessed them, “Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the waters of the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth.” <sup>23</sup>Evening came and then morning: the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup>Then God said, “Let the earth produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that crawl, and the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. <sup>25</sup>So God made the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and creatures that crawl on the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup>Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.”

<sup>27</sup> So God created man  
in His own image;  
He created him in the image  
of God;  
He created them male and female.

<sup>28</sup>God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth.” <sup>29</sup>God also said, “Look, I have given you every seed-bearing plant on the surface of the entire earth and every tree whose fruit contains seed. This food will be for you, <sup>30</sup>for all the wildlife of the earth, for every bird of the sky, and for every creature that crawls on the earth — everything having the breath of life in it. I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. <sup>31</sup>God saw all that He had made, and it was very good. Evening came and then morning: the sixth day.

**2** So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed. <sup>2</sup>By the seventh day God completed His work that He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work that He had done. <sup>3</sup>God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, for on it He rested from His work of creation.

<sup>4</sup>These are the records of the heavens and the earth, concerning their creation at the time that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens. <sup>5</sup>No shrub of the field had yet grown on the land, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not made it rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground. <sup>6</sup>But water would come out of the ground and water the entire surface of the land. <sup>7</sup>Then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being.

<sup>8</sup>The LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there He placed the man He had formed. <sup>9</sup>The LORD God caused to grow out of the ground every tree pleasing in appearance and good for food, including the tree of life in the middle of the garden, as well as the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

<sup>10</sup>A river went out from Eden to water the garden. From there it divided and became the source of four rivers. <sup>11</sup>The name of the first is Pishon, which flows through the entire land of Havilah,

where there is gold. <sup>12</sup>Gold from that land is pure; bdellium and onyx are also there. <sup>13</sup>The name of the second river is Gihon, which flows through the entire land of Cush. <sup>14</sup>The name of the third river is the Tigris, which runs east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

<sup>15</sup>The LORD God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it. <sup>16</sup>And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup>but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die.” <sup>18</sup>Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper as his complement.” <sup>19</sup>So the LORD God formed out of the ground every wild animal and every bird of the sky, and brought each to the man to see what he would call it. And whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup>The man gave names to all the livestock, to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal; but for the man no helper was found as his complement. <sup>21</sup>So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to come over the man, and he slept. God took one of his ribs and closed the flesh at that place. <sup>22</sup>Then the LORD God made the rib He had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup>And the man said:

This one, at last, is bone  
of my bone  
and flesh of my flesh;  
this one will be called “woman,”  
for she was taken from man.

<sup>24</sup>This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh. <sup>25</sup>Both the man and his wife were naked, yet felt no shame.

## PSALM 1:1-6

<sup>1</sup> How happy is the man  
who does not follow the advice  
of the wicked



- or take the path of sinners  
or join a group of mockers!
- <sup>2</sup> Instead, his delight is  
in the LORD's instruction,  
and he meditates on it day  
and night.
- <sup>3</sup> He is like a tree planted  
beside streams of water  
that bears its fruit in season  
and whose leaf does not wither.  
Whatever he does prospers.
- <sup>4</sup> The wicked are not like this;  
instead, they are like chaff  
that the wind blows away.
- <sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked  
will not survive the judgment,  
and sinners will not be in the  
community of the righteous.
- <sup>6</sup> For the LORD watches over the way  
of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked  
leads to ruin.

## PROVERBS 1:1–4

- 1** The proverbs of Solomon  
son of David, king of Israel:
- <sup>2</sup> For learning what wisdom  
and discipline are;  
for understanding  
insightful sayings;  
<sup>3</sup> for receiving wise instruction  
in righteousness, justice,  
and integrity;  
<sup>4</sup> for teaching shrewdness  
to the inexperienced,  
knowledge and discretion  
to a young man —

## MATTHEW 1:1–25

- 1** The historical record of Jesus Christ,  
the Son of David, the Son of Abra-  
ham:
- <sup>2</sup> Abraham fathered Isaac,  
Isaac fathered Jacob,  
Jacob fathered Judah  
and his brothers,  
<sup>3</sup> Judah fathered Perez and Zerah  
by Tamar,

- Perez fathered Hezron,  
Hezron fathered Aram,  
<sup>4</sup> Aram fathered Amminadab,  
Amminadab fathered Nahshon,  
Nahshon fathered Salmon,  
<sup>5</sup> Salmon fathered Boaz by Rahab,  
Boaz fathered Obed by Ruth,  
Obed fathered Jesse,  
<sup>6</sup> and Jesse fathered King David.
- Then David fathered Solomon  
by Uriah's wife,  
<sup>7</sup> Solomon fathered Rehoboam,  
Rehoboam fathered Abijah,  
Abijah fathered Asa,  
<sup>8</sup> Asa fathered Jehoshaphat,  
Jehoshaphat fathered Joram,  
Joram fathered Uzziah,  
<sup>9</sup> Uzziah fathered Jotham,  
Jotham fathered Ahaz,  
Ahaz fathered Hezekiah,  
<sup>10</sup> Hezekiah fathered Manasseh,  
Manasseh fathered Amon,  
Amon fathered Josiah,  
<sup>11</sup> and Josiah fathered Jechoniah  
and his brothers  
at the time of the exile  
to Babylon.
- <sup>12</sup> Then after the exile to Babylon  
Jechoniah fathered Shealtiel,  
Shealtiel fathered Zerubbabel,  
<sup>13</sup> Zerubbabel fathered Abiud,  
Abiud fathered Eliakim,  
Eliakim fathered Azor,  
<sup>14</sup> Azor fathered Zadok,  
Zadok fathered Achim,  
Achim fathered Eliud,  
<sup>15</sup> Eliud fathered Eleazar,  
Eleazar fathered Matthan,  
Matthan fathered Jacob,  
<sup>16</sup> and Jacob fathered Joseph  
the husband of Mary,  
who gave birth to Jesus  
who is called the Messiah.

<sup>17</sup>So all the generations from Abra-  
ham to David were 14 generations; and  
from David until the exile to Babylon,  
14 generations; and from the exile to  
Babylon until the Messiah, 14 genera-  
tions.

<sup>18</sup>The birth of Jesus Christ came about  
this way: After His mother Mary had

been engaged to Joseph, it was discovered before they came together that she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>So her husband Joseph, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, decided to divorce her secretly.

<sup>20</sup>But after he had considered these things, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is by the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.”

<sup>22</sup>Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> **See, the virgin will  
become pregnant  
and give birth to a son,  
and they will  
name Him Immanuel,**

which is translated “God is with us.”

<sup>24</sup>When Joseph got up from sleeping, he did as the Lord’s angel had commanded him. He married her <sup>25</sup>but did not know her intimately until she gave birth to a son. And he named Him Jesus.



## Daily Encouragement

*Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.*

—GENESIS 1:2

Wherever you’re reading this, stop a moment and enjoy the quiet. The phone may be ringing, the office buzzing with coworkers, your house full of loud children. But stop where you are and listen behind all that.

Can you hear it? Maybe you can, maybe you can’t. I often have a tough time hearing it through the busyness of life, but I believe it’s there.

It’s the hush of Jesus’s Spirit. It may seem impossible, but we really can hear it no matter how loudly life shouts.

Jesus’s Spirit has always hovered in a hush. Genesis 1:2 says, “Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.”

How different a crazy day affects us when we stop in the chaos to acknowledge that the Savior of the world and of our present moment hovers all around us, never leaving us alone, always covering us with His presence. What a picture that provides of His promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

Okay, so then what happens at the end of the age? More good news. Jesus’s holy presence will still beckon His own to Him when this earth passes away: “If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come back and receive you to Myself, so that where I am you may be also” (John 14:3).

If you belong to Jesus, you always have His holy hush covering you. Listen for it; you can be sure of it despite the din around you. —ERIN KEELEY MARSHALL

## Prayer

Jesus, thank You for the hush of Your Spirit. Help me today to hear You despite being in the midst of busyness. Amen.

## Faith Step

What daily circumstances threaten to drown out the beckoning hush of Jesus's Spirit in your life? Talk to Him about it, and ask Him to sensitize your own spirit to hear His.

# JANUARY 2

## GENESIS 3:1–4:26

**3** Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You can’t eat from any tree in the garden?’”

<sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. <sup>3</sup>But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, ‘You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die.’”

<sup>4</sup>“No! You will not die,” the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup>“In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup>Then the woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

<sup>8</sup>Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid themselves from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>So the LORD God called out to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”

<sup>10</sup>And he said, “I heard You in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid.”

<sup>11</sup>Then He asked, “Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

<sup>12</sup>Then the man replied, “The woman You gave to be with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate.”

<sup>13</sup>So the LORD God asked the woman, “What is this you have done?”

And the woman said, “It was the serpent. He deceived me, and I ate.”

<sup>14</sup>Then the LORD God said to the serpent:

Because you have done this,  
you are cursed more than  
any livestock  
and more than any wild animal.  
You will move on your belly  
and eat dust all the days  
of your life.

<sup>15</sup> I will put hostility between you  
and the woman,  
and between your seed  
and her seed.

He will strike your head,  
and you will strike his heel.

<sup>16</sup>He said to the woman:

I will intensify your labor pains;  
you will bear children in anguish.  
Your desire will be  
for your husband,  
yet he will rule over you.

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