

52 Weeks With God

Cynthia M. White, Course Facilitator
Pastor William E. White, Pastor of Discipleship, Course Instructor

MORE ON READING YOUR BIBLE!

Benefits of the Bible

- ▶ The Bible is Important for Children of God to pursue
 - ▶ Our _____ (Who We Are)
 - ▶ Believing
 - ▶ Behaving
 - ▶ Our _____ (What We Do)
 - ▶ Blessing God
 - ▶ Blessing Others
- ▶ Coming to _____
 - ▶ Come Prayerfully
 - ▶ Come Sensitively
 - ▶ Come Willingly
- ▶ Come Prayerfully & Sensitively
 - ▶ Come Prayerfully
 - ▶ Recognizing our _____
 - ▶ Requesting the Spirit to speak afresh today
 - ▶
 - ▶ Come with a Sensitivity to
 - ▶ Our personal cares and _____
 - ▶ The burdens of our community and society

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- ▶ Come Willingly
 - ▶ Come expectantly asking, “God, what...
 - ▶ do You want to say ____ _____?”
 - ▶ do You want to say _____ _____?”
 - ▶ Come obediently asking, “God, what
 - ▶ do You want me to know or to _____?”
 - ▶ do You want me to start, to stop, or to _____?”
- ▶ Message for Them
 - ▶ Author Historically: (The human writer)
 - ▶ Audience Contextually: (The recipients, their culture, their conditions)
 - ▶ Address Synthetically: (The overall understanding or broad direction)
- ▶ Message for Us
 - ▶ Author Supernatural (The Holy Spirit is the “Holy Ghost Writer”)
 - ▶ Audience Contemporary (Compare/contrast original audience & us)
 - ▶ Address for Today (How does that message minister to us today?)
- ▶ Additional Opportunities
 - ▶ Structure or Layout
 - ▶ Genre and Style
 - ▶ Patterns or _____
 - ▶ Items or Terms Repeated or _____
 - ▶ Themes Emphasized or True to Life

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Genesis

Genesis is the first book of the Bible and of the 5 books commonly referred to as the Law.

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

Let's get an idea of the value of reading whole books of the Bible and of reading the entire Bible by examining an interesting pattern in Genesis. This pattern involves the use of the Hebrew word *tol'dot*. Please go in your Bible to Genesis 2:4 (see below). How is this word translated in the Bible you are reading?

Structure of Genesis

- ∞ Creation (Genesis 1:1 - 2:3)
- ∞ *tol'dot* or _____ of the heavens & the Earth (Genesis 2:4 - 4:26)
- ∞ *tol'dot* of _____ (Genesis 5:1-6:8)
- ∞ *tol'dot* of _____ (Genesis 6:9 - 9:29)
- ∞ *tol'dot* of _____, _____, & _____ (Genesis 10:1 - 11:9)
- ∞ *tol'dot* of _____ (Genesis 11:10 -- 26)
- ∞ *tol'dot* of _____ (Genesis 11:27 - 25:11)
- ∞ *tol'dot* of _____ (Genesis 25:12 - 18)
- ∞ *tol'dot* of _____ (Genesis 25:19 - 35:29)
- ∞ *tol'dot* of _____ (Genesis 36:1- 8)
- ∞ *tol'dot* of _____, father of the Edomites (Genesis 36:9 - 37:1)
- ∞ *tol'dot* of _____ (Genesis 37:2 -50:26)

Patterns and repetition is a common literary device in Hebrew literature. It can help emphasize something or highlight something or help us to recognize what the author desires to communicate.

The pattern and repetition of the Hebrew word *tol'dot* throughout Genesis gives us an idea of the structure of the book. This is even more interesting when you consider that the English name for the 1st book of the Bible comes from the Greek translation of the Hebrew word, *tol'dot*!

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