

GENESIS: It's a book like no other. Hurtling us back to the dawn of time and space, we look over God's shoulder as He creates the universe. We watch as He tenderly kneels, shapes His crowning creature from the dust, and gently breathes into him the breath of life. No greater love drama, no more inspiring human saga, no more exciting rescue mission, could be imagined than the one told in this book.

EXODUS: The title refers to the *exit* of the children of Israel from Egypt, a continuation of the narrative begun in Genesis. We read with amazement of the raising up of Moses, of the Battle of the Gods (the plagues in Egypt), and of the Passover deliverance. Then follows the Red Sea rescue, God's covenant with Israel at Sinai, the construction of His earthly Home —

the tabernacle, and Israel's escapades through the wilderness journey. The book reveals many of God's attributes, His redemption plan through the blood of the Lamb, the outline of His Law, and the principles by which He is to be worshipped. It also explains the priesthood in Israel and points forward to God's plan to have all His people as a kingdom of worshipping and serving priests in His eternal Home.

LEVITICUS: Is it the easiest book in the Bible to read? Not exactly. But, like reading a will, sometimes the more complicated it is, the better it proves to be for the heirs! Thankfully, the New Testament provides commentary on this fascinating book. Invest just 4 minutes to open the treasure.

NUMBERS: If you've stayed out of the book of Numbers because you don't like math, you're missing big blessings. But the numbers (census-takings) at the beginning and the end ARE important — because only 2 people are in both lists. Guess who? Get a grip on the book with a 4-minute overview, and then dig in!

DEUTERONOMY: The word *Deuteronomy* (meaning "repetition of the law") shows the importance of each generation having a renewed relationship with God. Their parents had died in the wilderness because of their unbelief, and now this new generation must renew their covenant relationship with God, poised on the plains of Moab as they are about to enter Canaan. The book concludes gloriously with the transition of leadership from

Moses the Lawgiver to Joshua (the Hebrew form of *Jesus*!) the Deliverer. Moses sings his 120th birthday song in praise of the Lord their Rock, and then blesses the twelve tribes in his farewell. Now on to the Conquest!

